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COLUMNS

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ROGER SCRUTON

Letters
to the
Editor

ZETTARIES

Douglas
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LETTERS

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Letters
to the
Editor

THE TIMES 30P

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WEDNESDAY MAY 29 1996



INTERFACE SUPPLEMENT

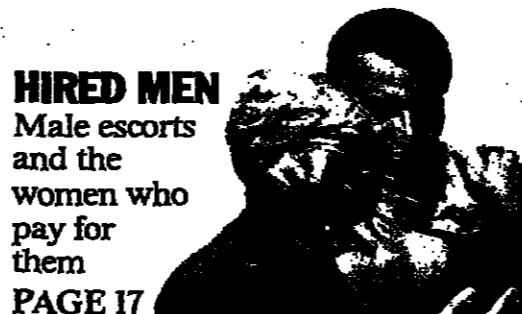
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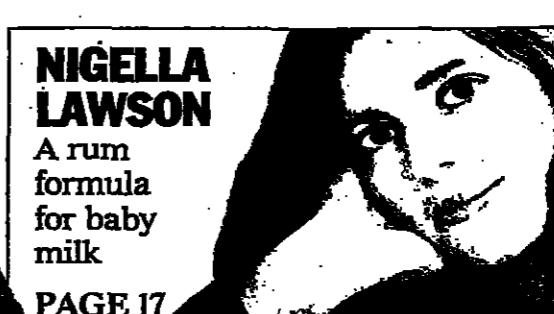
FASHION
Iain R. Webb
on chinos -
trousers
with flair
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MEDIA
MACHOS
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William
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PAGE 23



HIRED MEN
Male escorts
and the
women who
pay for
them
PAGE 17



NIGELLA
LAWSON
A rum
formula
for baby
milk
PAGE 17

DAVID DYSON

Tory states terms for keeping whip

Britain turns the screw in beef battle

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND MICHAEL DYNES



Freeman: BSE crisis
could last six years

Some ministers have predicted further desertions if Mr Major yields to the Right.

Mr Freeman — one of three ministers on obstruction duty in Brussels yesterday — insisted, however, that the policy was not "anti-German, anti-French, anti-Italian or anti-European". It was simply designed to force Britain's counterpart to realise the extent of the damage the blanket ban was causing the British beef industry.

But he accepted that it might be years before the industry returned to normal. "We acknowledge that BSE is a problem in the UK and in Europe, and it needs to be eradicated," he said.

Asked how long that could take, he said: "It won't happen in the short-term. It certainly is not months. Because of the gestation period, it could take four, five, six years. It may not be possible to say when the UK will be wholly BSE-free."

Mr Freeman acknowledged that Germany was demanding that the disease be eradicated before Britain could resume its export trade, but he said: "It may be possible to lift certain parts of the ban, with the support of our European Union partners, before arriving at that end state", although some countries may refuse to take British beef "until the last BSE cow has been killed".

But later Mr Freeman was forced to issue a statement clarifying his remarks. He said that he had not in any way been suggesting that the ban could last that long. He did not, however, clear up doubts over whether the Government wanted a clear timetable for an end to the ban.

He continues: "For the moment I grouch and bear it. But if Mr Major is goaded into widening the assault and extending non-cooperation, instead of hard negotiation, to the future of the Union then I reserve my position. Should the Government lurch blindly forward against an adversary only dimly defined through the fog of nationalist rhetoric engulfing it, then, as our German friends say, *ohne mich: without me*."

Mr Walden's remarks came as pro-European ministers privately urged Mr Major to abandon his policy of non-cooperation at the earliest possible moment and to resist demands from the Eurosceptics for a firm timetable for withdrawing the ban before ending the blocking tac-

BRITAIN escalated its "beef war" with Europe yesterday, wielding the national veto 12 times to scupper measures that would normally have sailed through.

But as ministers blocked everything that came before them in Brussels, the man in charge of the Cabinet response admitted that it could be six years before all Britain's cattle are free of "mad cow" disease — and even appeared to accept that the beef exports ban could last into the next century.

Roger Freeman later insisted that he had not meant to suggest the ban could last that long, but his remarks added to the confusion over the Government's policy and what it is trying to achieve.

At the same time, a former minister renewed his warning that he would wipe out the Government's Commons majority if John Major turned the beef campaign into a wider battle against Europe.

In an article in *The Times* today, George Walden spells out for the first time the circumstances under which he would resign the Tory whip.

He says that if the Government "lurches blindly forward" beyond Mr Major's original objectives of a lifting of the ban on beef by-products and a "framework" for removing the broader embargo, it will do so without him.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, also urged ministers to avoid "the language of xenophobia and jingoism" over beef, but he nevertheless cautiously threw Labour's support behind the policy of non-cooperation. Ministers, however, swiftly rebuffed his demand for consultation over the conduct of the policy.

In his *Times* article, Mr Walden accuses Mr Major of "demeaning" the country and says the Government's ur-

gation in a faxed message to Graham Kelly, its chief executive, who was also on the flight, and last night Scotland Yard confirmed it was investigating an allegation of damage to the £80 million plane.

Damage to the Cathay Pacific 747 was confined to the area of the plane where the 27-strong squad of players were sitting in the upper business class section before they touched down at Heathrow early yesterday.

Cabin crew are understood to have become so concerned by behaviour on board the aircraft that the captain radioed ahead for police to meet the jet on landing.

However, once the plane touched down it was decided a police presence was not necessary.

The airline made a formal protest to the Football Associa-

tion in a faxed message to Graham Kelly, its chief executive, who was also on the flight, and last night Scotland Yard confirmed it was investigating an allegation of damage to the £80 million plane.

Last night the FA promised that Terry Venables, the England manager, would make an early investigation into the allegation. Mr Venables had secured all 30 seats in the upper business class to ensure his players were not disturbed on the 13-hour flight.

Neither the police nor Cathay Pacific would confirm the exact nature of the complaint which is understood to include damage to televisions in seats in the Club Class section. The incidents coincided with celebrations for the Euro 96 tournament which starts in less than two weeks' time.

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, refused to speculate on whether the alleged incident would jeopardise England team selection for the Euro 96 tournament which starts in less than two weeks' time.

One passenger on board the flight from Hong Kong described how he went up to see the England squad to get autographs. He said the area looked like a "bomb site" but there was no evidence of any specific damage.

"No complaint had been received after the team disembarked, nor in the intervening

period," he said. A Scotland Yard spokesman said only: "Police at Heathrow are investigating an allegation of damage to an aeroplane which was received from Cathay Pacific airline."

A spokesman for the airline said the damage to the aircraft was "minimal" and the jet was returning to Hong Kong.

The players would have had some of the very best service during their flight. The airline's Marco Polo business class section has won a num-

ber of awards recently after it was relaunched two years ago.

The England squad would have had generous amounts of leg room and personal videos in English, Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Exotic dishes could have been washed down by copious amounts of champagne and wine.

Cathay won the 1996 Business Traveller Magazine Award for the best business class airline to the Far East.

Venables choice, page 48

England team tackled over high ball

By RICHARD DUCE AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

ENGLAND footballers were

last night at the centre of a

police investigation into dam-

age to the jumbo jet which

brought them back from

Hong Kong.

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Beef offensive bogged down in EU paperwork

FROM MICHAEL DVINES IN BRUSSELS

THREE British ministers, flanked by a phalanx of po-faced officials, stormed into Brussels yesterday to announce that as long as beef remained off the menu, no other European Union business would remain on the agenda.

As journalists jostled with one another to discover just how devastating Britain's policy of non-cooperation would be, a rare spotlight was cast on the bizarre and hitherto secretive world of ministerial meetings.

Italy appeals for peace at summit

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ROMANO PRODI, the new Italian Prime Minister, moved yesterday to shore up the threatened European Union summit in Florence. He appealed to John Major not to sabotage the summit over the ban on British beef, and turned to Germany for heavy-weight support.

Signor Prodi, who will chair the summit in three weeks, made Bonn the venue for his first foreign trip since taking office two weeks ago. Before leaving Rome he telephoned Mr Major to tell him that the British policy of "non-cooperation" was becoming "counter-productive".

According to officials at Palazzo Chigi, the equivalent of No 10, Signor Prodi asked Mr Major to reconsider his boycott of routine EU decision-making and to act "in a constructive spirit of European solidarity". He assured Mr Major that Italy supported the gradual lifting of the beef ban, but stressed that "all decisions must be taken on the basis of the best available scientific evidence".

He was assured of the support of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, for his efforts to keep the timetable for monetary union on track after Italy, which chaired the Turin summit in March as

part of its six-month EU presidency, launched the Maastricht review process only to watch helplessly as it was hijacked by the BSE crisis.

In playing the German card, Signor Prodi is signalling that Italy sees Bonn as the key to Italy's hopes of being a first-division player in Europe. Italian officials hope that Germany will help Italy to join the single currency.

Signor Prodi told Parliament last week that his main task was to fulfil the Maastricht criteria for monetary union by putting Italy's public finances on a sounder footing, reducing the budget deficit and tackling unemployment.

The Dunkirk spirit succeeded in preventing red tape governing building construction projects from being flashed; halting the establishment of standards for ornamental plant health; and delaying proposals for the mutual recognition of diplomas.

But if anyone was in any doubt about the debilitating effect of Britain's policy of non-cooperation, Mr Freeman was on hand to put them straight.

"The work of deregulation at a national level can and will go on, and preparatory work by Commission officials can and will continue," he said. "Life goes on. The Commission certainly doesn't need agreement from the Council of Ministers."

George Walden and Simon Jenkins, page 18
Letters, page 19



Prodi asked Britain to reconsider EU boycott



Baroness Chalker, right, with Emma Bonino, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, yesterday

German tabloids accuse Major of sowing the seeds of hatred

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

GERMANY'S tabloids fired a new salvo in the press war with Britain yesterday, accusing John Major of sowing the seeds of hatred. The attack, which was unusually personal, follows a week of grumbling and howling protest, most of it aimed at *The Sun*.

Munich's *Abend Zeitung* was the latest to join the counter offensive, making the obligatory shocked reference to *The Sun's* 20-point list of ways to irritate Germans and other continental Europeans.

"We Germans have come at just the right moment for the English. First we boycott British beef and now we want to grab the European champion sport — on their very own island!" the newspaper said.

The criticism was rare in that it singled out the Prime Minister for blame — "head of government Major has surely sown the hatred". The

German press usually gives kinder treatment to the Prime Minister than to his predecessor, but the *Abend Zeitung* editorial may signal a sea-change. The tabloids have already started to be enthusiastic about Tony Blair.

Yesterday however the hero was the Bayern Munich striker Jürgen Klinsmann, who apparently agreed to tuck into British beef to improve Anglo-German relations. Klins is Germany's best ambassador on the island," the paper said.

Serious papers are also talking in marital metaphor: "Major is losing the beef war on the home front," trumpeted the Bonn *General Anzeiger*, referring to the public doubts of George Walden. The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* tried to switch the idiom towards the game of poker: "Major's declaration of war is

emerging as a flop — he was wrong to think that moderate Conservative MPs would remain loyal. The anti-Europe cause was not a trump card. Indeed George Walden could call the bluff."

There was thus a clear division between mass-market German papers which thought Klinsmann could rescue Anglo-German relations and those who favoured George Walden. The venerable *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* called on Britain to show more consistency and refresh its memory.

The United States has not imported British beef since 1989 because of BSE but nothing has been heard about "obstructing" the Nato Council and there has been no sign of indignation in Washington. Could this be because only anger against the favourite enemy — Europe — promises

Scouts' truce

A judge at Peterborough County Court granted a temporary injunction against the leader of a breakaway group of Sea Scouts, awarded £1,500 costs against him and banned the group from its rival's hut at St Ives, Cambridge, except for three meetings a week. A full hearing will be held later.

Roller kills man

An Oxford University groundsman died after he was crushed under a motorised roller while preparing a cricket pitch at the Christ Church sports ground. Maurice Honey, 55, was taken to hospital but died soon afterwards. Police said that his daughter witnessed the accident.

Tennet released

Tennet Cole, the five-year-old orphan brought to Britain for a life-saving operation to remove a bullet from behind her eye, was released yesterday from the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Tennet, who has lost the sight in one eye, is due to return to her home in Sierra Leone today.

Unionists fear new party may hijack their traditional votes

BY NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A NEW Unionist party which is campaigning on a firmly anti-sectarian ticket is threatening to eat into the traditional support of the Ulster Unionists in tomorrow's election.

The United Kingdom Unionist Party, which was launched by Bob McCartney, the independent MP for North Down, is running such an impressive campaign that the Ulster Unionists have directed their fire against it.

David Trimble, who is facing his first electoral test since becoming Ulster Unionist leader last September, said on Monday that the Union could be damaged if voters supported small parties such as the UK Unionists. Amid Ulster Unionist fears that Mr McCartney could win some of its traditional middle-class support, Mr Trimble said that a "shredding" of the Unionist

vote would weaken Unionists at the forthcoming all-party talks.

Mr McCartney dismisses his critics as "rank amateurs" and believes that his formidable list of candidates, which includes Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, the former Irish politician, overshadows his opponents. Mr McCartney, 60, who won North Down in a by-

election last year, hopes to win widespread Unionist support, ranging from the Democratic Unionists to the Alliance Party, with his "twin message".

He says he is tough on Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom, which he will refuse to negotiate at all-party talks, but he is liberal in rejecting any form of Protestant sectarianism.

Mr McCartney, who is one of Northern Ireland's leading QC's, said: "Middle-class professionals who have no truck with the tub-thumping of traditional Ulster parties now have a pluralist party they can identify with. They can also feel socially comfortable with our party which combines intelligent analysis with the capacity to negotiate the best deal for the Union."

The MP, who was expelled from the Ulster Unionists in 1987 when he broke the party's election pact with the sitting independent MP in North Down, hopes to win up to nine

seats on Thursday. He is fielding 40 candidates in 16 of the 18 constituencies and will use Dr O'Brien as one of his key advisers at the talks, if he is elected.

Dr O'Brien, who was a member of the Irish government delegation at the last big talks on Northern Ireland at Sunningdale in 1973, says his decision to stand on Thursday marks the culmination of a long political journey from Irish nationalist politics to a staunch defender of the Union. Although he is 78, Dr O'Brien has been out on the stump with Mr McCartney every day this week to oppose the "crazy project" of the nationalist peace process.

He said: "This process has nothing to do with peace in the ordinary sense of the term. Sinn Féin's concept of peace is the state of affairs which will ensue after the elimination of Northern Ireland."

Leading article, page 19

Talks fail to reach accord

THE British and Irish governments failed again yesterday to agree on the issue of arms decommissioning in more than two hours of talks (Audrey Magee writes).

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, the Irish Deputy Prime Minister, met in Dublin yesterday to discuss the matter before the all-party talks due to begin on June 10, and will try again next Tuesday to resolve differences.

Mr Spring described yesterday's meeting as "satisfactory", and said a wide range of issues was discussed including the report on decommissioning drawn up by the former US Senator George Mitchell. Sir Patrick said yesterday's meeting was "useful and helpful", but a lot of work remained to be completed.

He said the outlook was "not pessimistic", and promptly ruled out any suggestion that the all-party talks might be postponed.

Conor Cruise O'Brien: long political journey

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Leading article, page 19

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Royal pa

Today's
opportunities

Loyal charities speak up for beleaguered Duchess

By ALAN HAMILTON

IN THE week in which her divorce becomes absolute and she relinquishes the title Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of York's small fistful of charities have rallied round to offer her their support.

Reports that the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) were dropping the Duchess, who has been their president for three years, were strongly denied yesterday by the charity and by the Duchess's own staff. The Duchess's three-year term as president comes to an end in September and she is involved in talks with the association on her future role.

The Duchess's office said yesterday that it was at her own request that she should not serve a further term as president, but that she wished to continue working for the charity in a different role, which had not yet been agreed. The charity said that the Duchess had been "of tremendous support", and had helped to raise £200,000 in the past four years.

The Duchess has expressed her desire and commitment to continue helping to promote awareness of motor neurone disease. The association welcomes this and is looking forward to continuing to work with the Duchess in the future," a spokeswoman said.

Other charities with which the Duchess is associated were anxious to offer her support yesterday, as she stood on the threshold of an increasingly uncertain future. Unlike other

royals, who hold huge portfolios of charity patronage, the Duchess is figurehead of only four other significant charities in Britain and one in the US.

Caroline Winterbottom, spokeswoman for Tommy's, the appeal for research into premature and stillborn births at St Thomas's Hospital, in London, of which the Duchess is patron, said yesterday: "We are very happy with the work she has done for us; she will continue as before."

Staff at the Teenage Cancer Trust, which raises money to fund special units in hospitals, said their royal patron had always supported them and they hoped she would continue to do so.

Deborah Oxley, manager of Children in Crisis, a charity founded by the Duchess, her

husband, Prince Andrew, and

her son, Prince Edward,

said: "The overall effect on her charity work has been very positive, despite adverse personal coverage in the media."

Despite the loyalty of her charity managers, the Duchess's problems will not go

away easily. Faced with reported debts of £3 million, she has been told by the Queen that, as she can't pay those debts herself, she will not be bailed out from the private royal coffers.

Her hopes of paying off some of her debts through marketing of her *Budgie the Helicopter* books suffered a blow earlier this month when it was reported that ITV had cancelled plans to make a fourth television series based on the books, for which the Duchess has already been accused of plagiarism.

The financial settlement to which she will be entitled when her divorce is finalised tomorrow will do little to ease her predicament. The deal is believed to offer her a total of £2 million, but the bulk will be put in trust for her daughters Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie. The Duchess is further bound by a clause which prevents her writing a "kiss and tell" account of her ten-year association with the Royal Family, although she is said to be considering writing a book on how to be a single mother.

A spokeswoman for the Charities Aid Foundation, which advises charities on how to maximise resources, said: "There is no decline in the importance of the Royal Family as patrons and presidents. The relationship is firmly entrenched and it continues to be a valuable one."

Royal patronage lends charities a great deal of kudos."

at night, and scaled another fence into the Orangery, also open to the public during the day. He was arrested after knocking on the doors of buildings that do not come within the secure area patrolled by police.

Whitney, who lives at a South Kensington hotel, admitted a breach of The Royal and Other Parks and Gardens Regulations, 1977. He told police that he wanted to see the Princess but did not elaborate in court yesterday.

The Princess was asleep in her apartments and unaware of the incident early last Monday when police arrested Liam Whitney. Whitney, 36, was carrying a book about the Princess when he climbed over a fence into Kensington Gardens, a public park closed

to the public.

He was arrested after

knocking on the doors of

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Royal patronage covers full spectrum of worthy causes

By ALAN HAMILTON

AND MICHAEL HORNSNELL

THE names of members of the Royal Family appear on letterheads across the spectrum of charities. The Queen is meticulous in not favouring one over the other but other members tend to take particular interest in their favourite cause. The Queen: patron or president of more than 750 charities, from Barnardo's to the RSPCA and the RNLI. She takes no significant

active part in any. There is no more desirable name on a charity letterhead.

The Duke of Edinburgh: even more charity-endowed than the Queen, his name is attached to more than 800 organisations, from Lord's Taverners to Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), British Heart Foundation to the Variety Club, Outward Bound to Muscular Dystrophy. Active, engaged and voluntary president of the WWF, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother

is indefatigable at 95, with 35 patronages still under her belt from British Red Cross to the Guide Association, National Trust to the Tidy Britain Group. Especially close to her heart is patronage of the Injured Jockeys' Fund. Princess Royal: queen of the charity workers who works like a Trojan as president of the Save the Children Fund, helping to raise its profile and income into one of the leading global players in Third World aid. Also active in Riding for the

Disabled and the Butler Trust, which makes awards for good work among prison officers. Her title adorns a further 249 charity letterheads. Prince of Wales: king of the charitably concerned, the Prince lends his name to 507 organisations but directs most of his energy at his own invention, the Prince's Trust, an umbrella organisation founded on a shoestring in 1976 which now has a £30 million annual turnover and is one of the most effective

youth charities in Britain. Princess of Wales: when she "drew from public life" she did not go so far as to resign her charity patronages. Still with 126 in her portfolio, led by Great Ormond Street hospital, Centrepoint Soho, Relate (formerly the Marriage Guidance Council), National AIDS Trust and organisations for meningitis, lung disease, leprosy and Parkinson's.

Princess Margaret: a second division player these days with only 87

charities on her books. Usually seen at parades of the Guide Association, also lends her name to the Royal Ballet, St John Ambulance and NSPCC. Duchess of York: only six significant charities — Chemical Dependency Centre, the Tommy's campaign for premature baby research at St Thomas's Hospital, London; Teenage Cancer Trust; Motor Neurone Disease Association and Children in Crisis, founded by the duchess in 1993.

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Fire crews vote to join strike plan

Firefighters in Derbyshire yesterday became the second brigade in a week to vote for a series of nine-hour strikes. They are expected to begin joint action on June 10 with Essex firefighters, who decided on Thursday to begin identical strikes against proposed cuts in fire cover.

Derbyshire County Council has cut its firefighting budget by £1.3 million but says the brigade would still meet minimum standards for cover.

Cyclist shot

A boy aged 15 was recovering in hospital in Sheffield after teenagers shot him with an airgun while he was cycling through woods. Police said Ricky Chapman was lucky not to have lost his left eye after being hit in the temple.

Driver attacked

A woman who works for a car hire firm was attacked by three men as they stole the Mercedes she was driving in West Bromwich, West Midlands. They pushed her into a hedge, kicked her in the stomach and punched her.

Croc shock

The skull, flesh and teeth of a crocodile found in a brook in Finchley, north London, are being examined by experts at London Zoo. They were found by an off-duty RSPCA inspector who was out walking his dog.

Buttonholed

A woman who runs an east London stall was ordered by Marlborough Street Court to pay £1,300 to the Oxford Street men's outfitter Cecil Gee. She damaged seven designer suits by snapping off 11 buttons to put on second-hand clothes.

Cliff escape

A woman who fell 150ft down a cliff while out with friends in Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear, escaped with just a broken finger and bruises. Nora Garity, 47, of North Shields, was rescued by firemen who used ropes to reach her.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMESTEL
TALESGinny Dougray
meets
Terry Venables30-MINUTE
SUPPERSRapid recipes that
survive the
guest test

PLUS

Vision, the seven-
day television and
radio guide

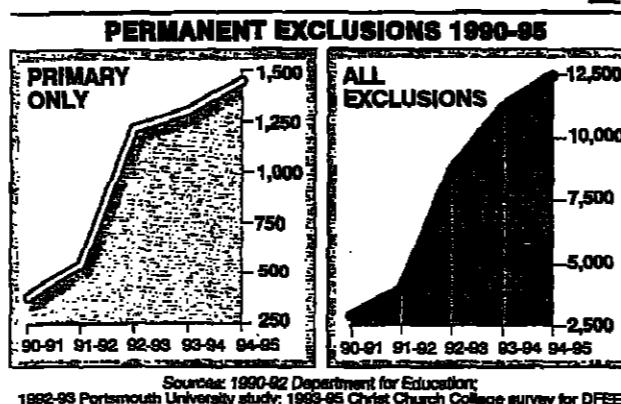
Heads seek right to expel pupils with violent parents

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOLS should be allowed to expel the children of parents who attack staff, head teachers' leaders said yesterday.

A primary school head who was injured in an incident with an irate mother claimed yesterday that such violence was becoming a serious problem. Liz Paver, head of Intake First School, in Doncaster, lost a tooth when the mother of a five-year-old girl who had been hurt in a playground accident drove off as she was leaning through her car window. "She left taking me with her and I lost a front tooth and injured my knee," she said.

Exclusions from primary and secondary schools are at record levels. But leaders of the National Association of Head Teachers said the children of violent parents should be added to the figures if an incident destroyed the relationship between school and family. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said he recognised that such a move would be seen as visiting



Source: 1990-92 Department for Education; 1993-95 Christ Church College survey for DfEE

the sins of the parent on the child, but added: "It may be in the child's interests to get a fresh start in another school, where a better relationship can be established."

Mr Hart said the union would support any member who excluded a pupil after such an assault by a parent. Current legal advice is that an independent appeals panel would be likely to overturn an exclusion in such circumstances, but the union is lobbying ministers to issue fresh guidance. Margaret Morrissey, the spokeswoman for the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, said she could not accept punishing children for their parents' action. "I sympathise with teachers for what they have to put up with, but this is not the right way of going about it."

In Mrs Paver's case, which took place a month ago, the child is still in school following an apology from the family. The father is a school governor and the family had always been supportive of the school.

The incident happened the day after the girl had been knocked over by an older boy in what Mrs Paver described as "playground rough and tumble". The girl's mother

came into school and scolded the boy and was still agitated when she left the premises, having been asked to leave the matter to the staff.

Mrs Paver followed because she felt the mother was in no state to drive and was trying to calm her down when she drove off suddenly. "It looks as if road rage and abuse in school have come together in this particular incident," she said. The police were informed, but were expected to limit any action to a caution in view of the mother's clean record.

Mrs Paver, a head for 20 years, will become President of the union for 1997-98. She said: "In the past five years I have had many more colleagues who have felt threatened by parents who, rather than consult on a way forward, have taken the law into their own hands. They see their child's needs above all the other members of the class, lose control and often resort to violence."

The union said there were 27 serious assaults on members in the past year — nine by pupils, 16 by parents and two by members of the public.



Liz Paver, a head teacher who lost a tooth after an altercation with a parent

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Dyslexia assessed three years after boy's exclusion

By LIN JENKINS

WHEN Marion Ward was told her six-year-old son Christopher was being expelled from primary school, she feared his education would be doomed.

In the following three years the boy was expelled from a further three schools, assessed at a school for those with behavioural difficulties, sent at public expense to a private school and taught at home. Dr Ward had to convince education officials that Christopher was dyslexic and that his tantrums were manageable.

Most of the increasing numbers of pupils sent home from primary school have nowhere to go. They wait an average of 14 weeks before an alternative school is found or home tuition arranged. The latter option rarely gives children more than five hours of schooling a week, often in unsatisfactory surroundings of an overcrowded home with the distractions of pre-school children, babies, parents and their friends.

The Education Act 1993 requires education authorities to provide "suitable full-time or part-time education" for those excluded. It defines suitable as "efficient". Mr Parsons said: "That does not mean effective but means efficient in terms of the allocation of funds and most LEAs consider two hours a week to be the legal minimum, although some do provide three or five."

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Fears over chemicals in milk may be misplaced

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

WORRIED mothers who abandon bottle-feeding because of the discovery in baby milk of traces of chemicals which might affect the fertility of boys may be doing so their babies no favours. Studies have shown that breast milk contains traces of chemicals that may be at least as dangerous as those found in infant formulae — if either presents a risk at all, which many toxicologists question.

The chemicals are different — phthalates in formula milk, and dioxins in breast milk — but both belong to the group of chemicals suspected of mimicking the behaviour of natural hormones. Exposure to them in the womb or in the first few weeks of life may affect the sexual development of children, especially boys.

Scandinavian scientists have claimed that one in ten women have such high levels of dioxin in their bodies that they should breast-feed for only a few weeks at most. But the Department of Health, supported by advice from the Committee on the Toxicology

of Chemicals, argues that they present no hazard.

The department says breast is still best, in spite of the dioxins. The chemicals are produced by incinerating household waste and are in all our bodies, as are other long-lived chemicals, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The fear that these chemicals may have subtle and previously unsuspected effects has turned toxicology on its head. As poisons, they are present in food at levels far below those which would cause damage. But as disruptors of the hormone system in the womb, or the first few months of life, they could do

that some chemicals can affect sexual development. But the potential culprits are many — probably thousands. To focus on phthalates and only on baby formulae misses the point. For example, tinned vegetables contain bisphenol A, another potential disrupter. There are traces in the environment of the breakdown products of DDT and PCBs, both prime suspects. The fact that phthalates may be present in gravy browning or in coffee whitener is a side-issue because they are not eaten by infants.

The scientists at the Ministry of Agriculture who measured the phthalates in baby formulae investigated adult diets and found that phthalate intake averages 0.8 milligrams a day. But they believe the contamination arose when the food samples were stored before analysis and that fresh food has lower levels — 60 times lower than those found to have hormone effects in rats. This suggests that in adults the safety margin is wide enough.

Nigella Lawson, page 17
Letters, page 19

damage at much lower levels. The committee's advice is that although breast-fed babies can receive big doses of dioxins — up to ten times the tolerable daily intake — in the early months of life, this is irrelevant over a whole lifetime.

But, at a recent meeting at Lancaster University, Dr Michael DeVito of the US Environmental Protection Agency said this approach ignored the "window of sensitivity" to the hormone-disrupters, according to the newsletter of Environmental Data Services.

Whether such a window exists is disputed. Animal experiments and studies of fish in contaminated rivers suggest



Eighteen-month-old Joe Guerrier is recovering at Guy's Hospital, London, after becoming one of the youngest patients to be given a kidney from a live donor — in this case his mother, Lorraine, 33.

Stay by the pool to be on safe side in Majorca

MEDICAL BRIEFING

THE four, or possibly five, cases of meningitis in Majorca have alarmed holidaymakers, but doctors who specialise in travel medicine feel it is important that parents planning a family holiday there should not overread.

There are three types of bacterial meningococcal meningitis: A, B, and C. All three can cause meningococcal septicaemia. As yet the strain of the organism responsible for the outbreak in the Balearic Islands has not been identified. In Britain the B strain predominates, as it does in many other parts of Europe, the Caribbean and southern America, whereas in Africa the A and C strains are more common.

Meningococcal infection, whether it is meningitis or the even more dread meningococcal septicaemia, is unpredictable. In Britain the meningococcal bacterium is predominantly a menace during the cold, wet winter months, but worldwide it is in the hot climate of sub-Saharan Africa that the incidence of meningitis is highest and the infection most deadly.

Meningococcal meningitis is prevalent in two age groups, under-five and late adolescence. The latter peak is possibly the result of young people starting to socialise at discos, bars and parties. The close contact involved in teenage social life may be the factor that encourages the easy spread of bacteria in small droplets of spit sprayed by coughs, sneezes, nose-blowing and kissing.

Meningitis can occur at any age. Recently, a Norfolk dentist's wife in late middle age

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Tourists blamed for meningitis outbreak

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

MAJORCA'S tourism director insisted yesterday that the recent cases of meningitis among tourists on the island were "no more than an unfortunate coincidence". British tourists should not worry, said Pedro Pasqual. "Majorca is just as safe as Britain."

Mr Pasqual said that meningococcal septicaemia, which led to the deaths of two children, was not common on the island and had been contracted before they left home. Majorca has been hit by a 15 per cent slump in package holiday bookings this year and the health scare is just as safe as Britain.

Doctors were inundated by tourists bringing children to see them with a range of ailments, none of which has proved to be meningitis. The fifth victim, six-year-old Amy Kerney from Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, is recovering in hospital on the island.



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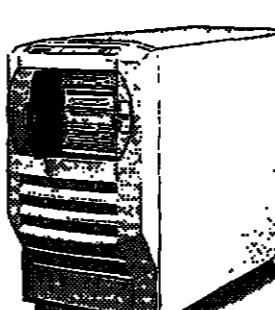
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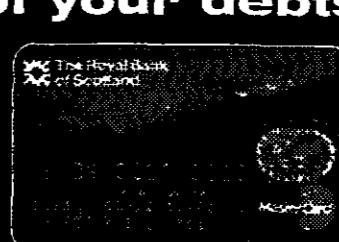
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Rover gambles on including hidden costs in list prices

By KEVIN EASON, MOToring EDITOR

ROVER will scrap separate delivery charges and similar extras on new cars next week. The move, which will add an average of £600 to the upfront cost of its cars but do away with "hidden" extras, will force other carmakers to end a practice that adds hundreds of pounds to list prices.

The company is the first big manufacturer to get rid of the added costs. Rover prices will go up from Monday, when the all-in price takes effect, but the company believes the long-term benefit will outweigh the short-term loss of advertising prices higher than those of its

rivals. Consumer groups have long campaigned against delivery charges, which range from £200 to £600, depending on model and manufacturer. A customer in John o'Groats buying a Rover Metro would pay the same delivery charge as a buyer who lived yards from the factory in Longbridge, Birmingham, where it is made.

Rover customers used to pay £421 for delivery, about £20 for number plates, from £20 to £30 for a tank of fuel, the first service costs and £140 road tax. Now only road tax will be separate, so buyers will

pay £421 for delivery, about £20 for number plates, from £20 to £30 for a tank of fuel, the first service costs and £140 road tax. Now only road tax will be separate, so buyers will

The Jaguar XK8: £50,000 with no manual option

Automatic choice for sporty Jaguar

JAGUAR will announce later this year that its new XK8 sports car will be made only with automatic gearboxes. A manual gearshift will not even be offered as an optional extra (Kevin Eason writes).

The company said yesterday that customers did not want to bother changing gear when a tiny on-board computer could do the job faster and more efficiently. Only 5 per cent of Jaguars are sold with manual gearboxes and the company is moving towards eliminating them from its cars.

Jaguar wants to drop manual gearboxes because they are now more expensive to build, heavier and less efficient. Manuals cost Jaguar about £200 more than an automatic but have to be sold more cheaply to customers who expect manuals as standard equipment.

The decision marks the

move away from the conventional H-shaped gearbox towards automatic boxes controlled by the flick of a switch. Vauxhall is experimenting with a small car with an automatic transmission run by a dashboard-mounted flick switch to make the car go forwards or backwards. The new generation of mini-cars, led by Mercedes next year, is also likely to use a new generation of computer-controlled electronic gearboxes that offer smoother driving and better fuel economy.

Jaguar decided to lead the way with its XK8 even though the car is described as the spiritual successor to the E-type, probably the archetypal muscular British sports car, which was launched in 1961 with a four-speed manual gearbox. The XK8, which will cost £50,000, will be seen at the British Motor Show in October.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 29 1996

HOME NEWS 11

Jingoistic talk over beef may inflame Euro 96 fans, says Cook

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK yesterday warned ministers against using "the language of xenophobia and jingoism" over the beef crisis to avoid inflaming tensions at the Euro 96 football championship.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary asked the Government to appeal to everyone involved in the crisis to curb their rhetoric in the run-up to the championship, which starts on June 3.

Outlining Labour's strategy towards the European beef ban, Mr Cook announced that the party would support the Government's policy of non-cooperation "in the national interest". But he said that the Labour Party and British industry should be consulted about any measures that would penalise Britain or Third World countries.

Labour would support selective measures that would do more damage to Britain's European partners than to this country, he said.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, immediately rebuffed Mr Cook's overtures by making it known that his officials would brief Labour on any points but ministers would not consult them on what action to take. "The Government's duty is to gov-



Cook would prefer selective measures

ern," sources close to Mr Rifkind said.

Divisions within Labour also surfaced when Neil Kinnock, the European Transport Commissioner, gave warning that the Government's policy of non-cooperation could backfire. "It will illustrate and it will contradict in some respects, the UK interest," the former Labour leader said on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*. "There are many decisions requiring unanimity with which the UK under the present Government is in sympathy. So there is a degree of cutting off noses to spite faces," he said.

Glenys Kinnock, Labour Euro MP for South Wales East, also stepped into the fray by criticising the Government's decision to veto a statement on human rights abuses in Burma, as part of its non-cooperation policy.

"As a consequence of this petroleum, there is no European Union condemnation of the terrible events in Burma," she said. Mrs Kinnock said that more than 1,000 pro-democracy activists in Burma had been arrested during the past few days.

Earlier Mr Cook criticised Gillian Shephard, the Educa-

tion and Employment Secretary, who had attacked the choice of *Ode to Joy* from Beethoven's 9th symphony as BBC's theme tune for Euro 96, because it was written by a German.

"We do not expect from ministers, particularly those who are charged with the conduct of our nation's foreign policy, the language of xenophobia or jingoism," Mr Cook said.

He argued that recent comments about "war cabinets" and "declarations of war" raised temperatures over the beef crisis and lowered the

prospect of a negotiated agreement. "Labour asks the Government to join us in a bipartisan appeal to everyone commenting on the beef crisis to avoid rhetoric that may inflame tensions on the football terraces or incite hostility between the peoples of Europe," he said.

But Mr Cook made clear that Labour had decided to take a populist approach towards the beef ban by signing up to the Government's policy of non-cooperation, albeit on a selective basis.

During the past few days Labour has been accused of sitting on the fence for failing to either condemn or support the Government's strategy.

Tony Blair was noticeably quiet about his party's stance during his visit to Italy last week. But over the weekend there have been several opinion polls showing the extent of public anger against Europe for its refusal to lift the ban on British beef.

Yesterday Robin Cook declared that Labour would back the Government in principle. But he said that the Prime Minister and Mr Rifkind should be prepared to consult with Labour over blocking tactics. He also suggested that the Confederation of British Industry should be consulted

about any blocking measures that could be damaging. "Britain is more likely to succeed in negotiation if we can demonstrate a national resolve in support of our objectives," he said. "If the Government is serious about building a national consensus around its policy of non-cooperation, Labour believes that ministers must show it by their actions."

Mr Cook has written to Mr Rifkind today, asking him to consult the Opposition over its policy of non-cooperation. He also argued that the Government should do minimum damage to British interests while disrupting business in Brussels.

"It cannot be in the British interest to veto measures that open up markets to British firms," Mr Cook says in the letter.

Mr Cook dodged questions about which measures Labour would be prepared to block but he made clear that the party was unhappy about the widespread use of the veto in Brussels yesterday.

Party sources said that Labour did not support Britain's veto to block aid to Third World countries, and had doubts about vetoing proposals to combat fraud in Europe or to promote the single market.



Business as usual for David Hunt at his constituency surgery in Hoylake yesterday

Tory left urged to unite

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

DAVID HUNT, the former Public Service Minister, yesterday urged Tory MPs to unite under a new umbrella grouping on the centre-left of the party and voice their support for John Major.

In what many Tory MPs see as a counterbalance to the growing influence of right-wing Eurosceptics, Conservative Mainstream will coordinate the activities of several factions of broadly pro-European MPs.

Although Mr Hunt backed

the Prime Minister's tough stance of non-cooperation with Brussels on the beef crisis, he said Britain gained a great deal from its membership of the European Union. "I don't agree with any proposal that we should pull out of Europe," he told BBC Radio 4's *Today*. "I want to see people being much more positive about Europe. That means supporting our Prime Minister and our ministers out there in the front line."

The vast majority of Tory MPs could be placed directly in the centre ground and that is where general elections are

won or lost, he said. Conservative Mainstream will help to organise the activities of the left-of-centre Tory Reform Group (of which Mr Hunt is president), the 50-strong Macleod Group of MPs, the Action Centre for Europe, and two dining clubs, the Progress Group and Nick's Diner. It will also provide a home for all so-called "One-Nation" Tories.

Funding is expected to come from companies which have traditionally contributed to Tory coffers but are disillusioned with the party's shift to the right.

Constituency pressed to drop candidate over Serb claims

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER



Kennedy: supported by constituency association

THE Conservative leadership is expected to put pressure on a constituency party to drop its parliamentary candidate after reports of his alleged involvement in Serbian money reaching party coffers.

There have also been claims that the candidate, John Kennedy, had links with Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader who since 1995 has been wanted by the international war crimes tribunal.

Mr Kennedy has dismissed the allegations as "fantastic nonsense" and said he had not raised any amount from any Serbian businessman.

With the Government coming under attack for its sources of party funding, Mr Kennedy's position as a candidate for Halewood and Rowley Regis looks rather precarious.

Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, is meeting Mr Kennedy as soon as he gets back from holiday early next week to discuss the allegations. Before Mr Mawhinney left he ordered an investigation into claims that a Serb businessman linked to Mr Karadzic gave something less than £100,000 to Conservative funds at the height of the war

in the former Yugoslavia. "We do not accept funds with conditions attached from foreign governments, anonymous donors and criminal sources," he said.

One of the later donations, about £50,000, was reportedly arranged in December 1994 after Mr Kennedy contacted Jeremy Hanley, the party chairman at the time. The source was reported to be a London-based Serbian businessman. The deal was allegedly discussed over lunch with Mr Hanley, the businessman and Mr Kennedy at Marks'

Club in Mayfair, central London. So far, the investigation has thrown up more questions than it has answered, but one way that funds could have been transferred is through a local constituency party.

Mr Kennedy, 31, is a target of many at Central Office. A distant kinsman of the exiled Yugoslav royal family, he is a successful businessman and flamboyant character. He has also held meetings with Slobodan Milosevic, the President of Serbia, and Mr Karadzic. But Mr Kennedy stopped all contact with Mr Karadzic after reports reached this country of Bosnian Serb atrocities in the former Yugoslavia.

His constituency party is also sticking by him, which means that unless Central Office can get Mr Kennedy to resign voluntarily, it will be difficult to force him to stand down. But the new constituency's predicted Tory majority is only 105, which means that Mr Kennedy will have to fight extremely hard to hold it.

John Woodall, the constituency association chairman, said yesterday: "John Kennedy enjoys the full support of the whole association. We have no planned meeting to

discuss recent press reports regarding party funding. This is a storm in a teacup which will not in any way slacken our resolve to return Mr Kennedy to Parliament at the next election. We have absolutely no knowledge of any illegal funding coming through our constituency."

In a further embarrassment to Central Office, a report by a left-wing think-tank, published today, will show that John Major has been ditched by more than 100 business giants, costing the Tories at least £1 million a year in donations.

At least 106 firms have deserted since the last election, including Allied Domex and Legal and General, according to Labour research.

Parliament could better represent minorities says Major

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR hopes that more candidates from ethnic minority communities will stand for Parliament.

The Prime Minister says in a television programme to be broadcast tonight that he would welcome more candidates from ethnic minorities after admitting that the House of Commons does not reflect the existing ethnic and gender ratios in Britain.

Mr Major says: "The present mix of the House of Commons does not remotely reflect the mix of the country as a whole, either in terms of Asian candidates, West Indian candidates, or indeed the male and female balance of the population."

He adds that he would be "delighted" to have more parliamentary candidates from Asian communities standing for Parliament, but emphasises that the selection of Tory candidates is a matter for local constituencies, not for party headquarters.

There are currently six MPs from ethnic minority communities in the House of Commons — five Labour and one Conservative. If the Commons representation reflected the three million-strong ethnic minority population there would be about 35 MPs from ethnic minority communities.

Interviewed for the Asian current affairs programme *East* tonight on BBC2, Mr Major said that he had practical experience of living with people of other ethnic backgrounds in his youth when he lived in Brixton. "I grew up that way. I like to think I'm colour-blind," he said.

Tony Blair tells the programme that Labour is committed to having Asian candidates. "We are keen to make it possible for people, more Asian people, to come through and represent constituencies, particularly ... where there's a very high Asian population," the Labour leader says.

Labour sets out terms for accepting social directives from Europe

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday set out its demands for "opting-in" to the social chapter of the European Charter in a further signal that it will not bow to all directives on social issues.

A policy document argues that despite Britain's opt-out of the social protocol British companies trading with Europe were finding themselves increasingly affected by its provisions.

Britain needs to participate fully in the European Union's social dimension to ensure that it meets the requirements of a modern competitive economy, the paper says. "We cannot do so from a policy of isolation. We need a voice at the table in order to safeguard our interests."

The paper argues that European social policy should concentrate on establishing a level playing field of minimum standards. "It should not be used to impose a

large amount of centrally determined social regulation," it says. "Respecting the principle of subsidiarity, action at the European level should not seek to replace the policies of member states. Most social measures should continue to be determined nationally."

The paper, *A Business Agenda for Europe*, says that as part of the opt-in to the social protocol a Labour government would wish to get agreement from other countries on a realistic timetable for implementing its requirements. Any future proposals put forward under the terms of the protocol would need to be examined in close consultation with industry, it says.

In addition any developments in conditions covered by the social chapter would have to take account of the need to maintain and improve competitiveness.

Despite Labour's decision to back the government's policy of non-cooperation over the beef ban, the paper argues

that to promote Britain's economic interests "we need to form alliances and work constructively with our partners".

The paper also calls for further reforms to extend and improve the single market; enlarging the European Union; reforming the common agricultural policy; tackling fraud in the European budget and improving the effectiveness of decision making.

The policy document says the intergovernmental conference should agree measures to make decision making more open, transparent and efficient. The Council of Ministers should end the practice of passing laws in secret and should publish the minutes of its legislative proceedings.

Qualified majority voting should be extended in some areas and consultation between business and government should be improved by issuing green papers where policy has an impact on industry, the paper says.

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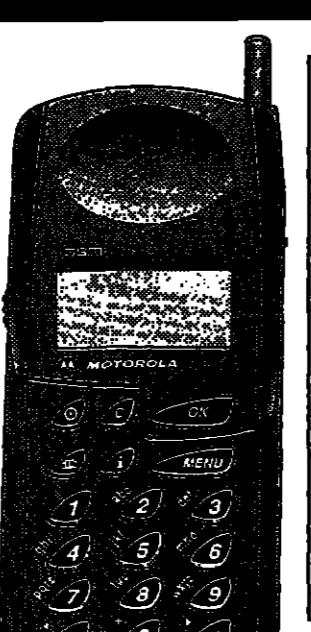
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Red Cross predicts ten-year doubling of refugees total

BY MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE number of refugees seeking shelter from war, oppression and tyranny is likely to double in the next ten years, according to the International Red Cross. More than 60 million people throughout the world will be the huddled victims of injustice and persecution by 2005.

Most will be the victims of war and civil war, ethnic and religious tensions and collapsed states. But as governments clamp down on the flight of refugees to other countries, more and more will be internally displaced. This will make them more difficult to reach and harder to help, the Red Cross says.

In its report on world disasters, the Red Cross also gave a warning that more than ten million people were uprooted each year by public works projects, such as dams. In 1990 only 21 per cent of appeals launched by the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies

were for people on the move; by 1995 the figure had risen to 70 per cent.

Some countries such as China were creating "environmental refugees" by forcibly dispersing migrants to the towns back into the countryside.

The report said China's rural working population totalled 450 million, but 120 million were without any real work and 80 million had migrated to cities in search of jobs; by 2010 half of China's population might live in crowded cities.

Red Cross workers saw continuing problems in the Balkans, a grinding crisis around Rwanda and looming hunger this year in North Korea unless there is a concerted international response that United Nations experts say is needed to avoid famine.

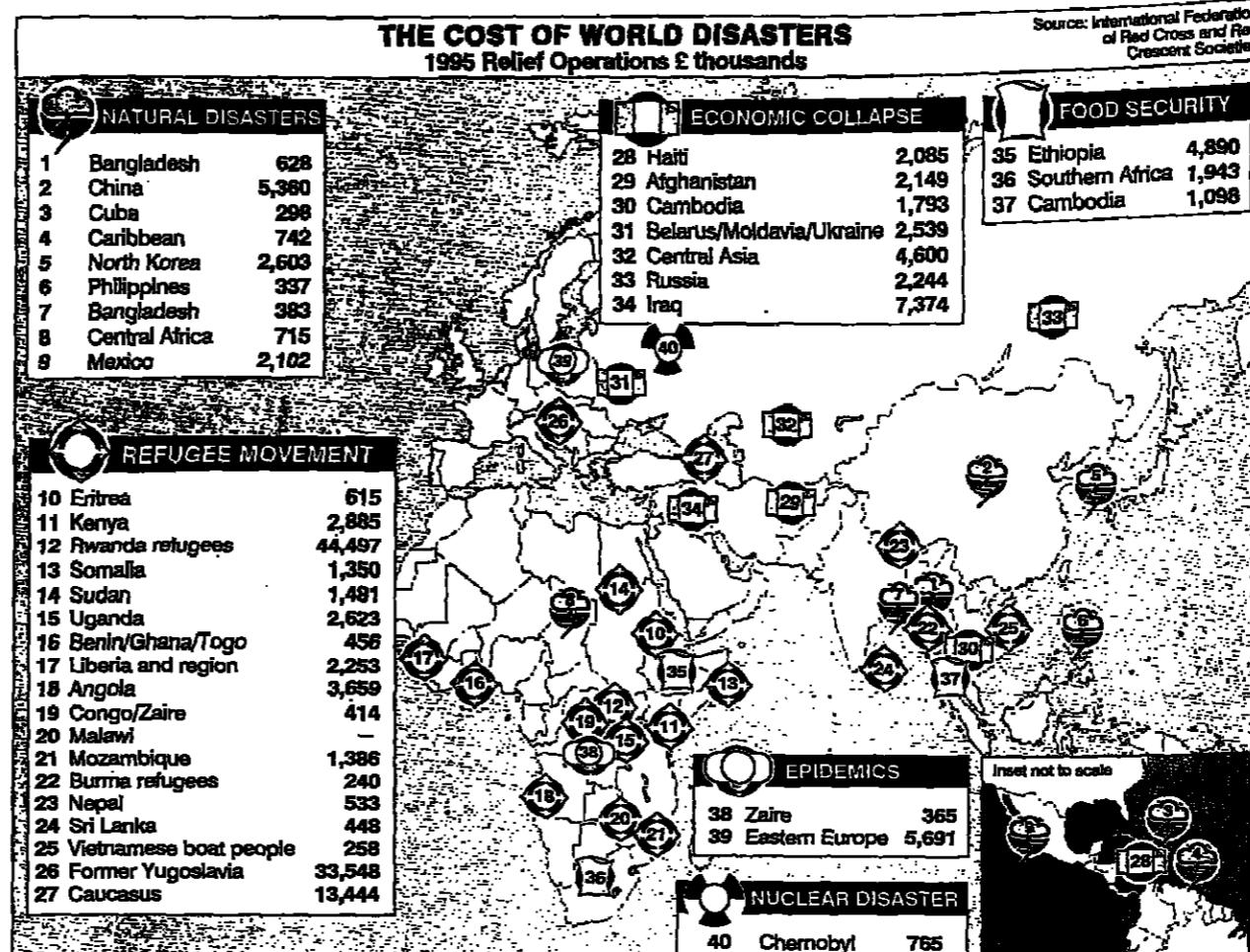
The Swiss-based organisation gave a warning that money for relief was likely to fall from the peak of £2.3 billion in 1994. It also forecast that food aid needs would exceed supply by up to 38 million tonnes in 2005.

There was real concern, the report said, about food security as populations grew inexorably. Within 35 years China's population would outstrip its ability to feed itself. In the Horn of Africa region, almost half the population — about 71 million people — do not have secure food supplies, and 22 million of them require food aid.

In black Africa food production could have grown up to 3 per cent a year for 20 years, had there not been continual fighting.

Altogether, more than 133 million people are affected by naturally triggered disasters each year, such as earthquakes, drought, floods, hurricanes, landslides and volcanoes.

On average, 143,000 are killed and nearly five million



made homeless. Last year there were nearly 300 disasters, ranging from quakes to large fires. They caused more than £31 billion in damage to insured property worldwide; most costly were floods, followed by high winds, accidents and earthquakes. Ethiopia and Bangladesh suffered the most, with the most people killed in disasters, fol-

lowed by China, Sudan, India, Mozambique and Peru. Of the world's 30 armed conflicts last year, 12 were in Asia, six in Africa, six in the Middle East, three in Europe and three in

the Americas. In 1990-95, Africa saw more battle-related deaths than Europe or the Middle East, despite the fighting in former Yugoslavia and the Gulf War.

Death for killer of SAS veteran

FROM JAN RAATH
IN HARARE

HARARE'S High Court sentenced to death the killer of a veteran British former Special Air Services officer, bludgeoned to death in his bed here three years ago after a 50-year career in international clandestine operations in the world's trouble spots.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Coventry was 76 when Elijah Chimunenga attacked him with the butt of an 1873 Winchester rifle the officer had collected on one of his operations, and he died after a month in a coma. Judge Moses Chimunenga said the attack "showed the unacceptable face of human degeneracy and callousness", and found Chimunenga guilty without extenuating circumstances, the daily *Herald* newspaper said yesterday.

The London-born colonel showed his talent for unconventional warfare in Afghanistan soon after he joined the British Army, and spent much of the Second World War behind German lines, once killing an SS trooper with a single punch to the jaw.

He finished his military career at the age of 72 by parachuting at the head of Zimbabwean forces into a Mozambique rebel base, and directing the attack armed only with a walking stick.

The group, made up of women from Europe and North America, claims to have no political or religious affiliation. The plan had been to plant the tree, then drive on to the Bosnian capital to meet other women.

The group had contacted Nato, the United Nations agency for refugees, and the local authorities in Prijedor to clear the visit as a "matter of courtesy". When the coach which was escorted by Nato armoured personnel carriers reached the outskirts of Prijedor, however, it was met by a menacing crowd of civilians, brandishing sticks and rocks. They hurled stones at the bus, shattering its windows and forcing the women to retreat.

The group said they were outraged by the event. "There is no way they could have mistaken us as a mercenary group of Mujahidin. They knew who we were," Mr Keen said.

Over the past few weeks groups of mainly Muslim refugees have tested the freedom of movement guaranteed to them by the Dayton peace accord by attempting to visit the towns in the Serb Republic from which they were expelled during the war. Time and time again, however, they have been met by hostile Serb crowds who have successfully thwarted the pilgrimages.

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Serbs hurl rocks at women on peace trip

FROM STACY SULLIVAN
IN SARAJEVO

THE local radio station in Prijedor, a town in the Serb Republic best known for imprisoning Muslims and Croats in concentration camps in 1992, reported on Sunday that the civilian population had bravely repelled an attack by Mujahidin and mercenary fighters.

The foreign forces alleged to have penetrated Serb territory yesterday gave a press conference in Sarajevo. They were 44 women from an international women's peace group, known as "Through Heart to Peace" which has made several trips to Bosnia-Herzegovina throughout the war to plant "trees of peace".

Dressed in T-shirts emblazoned with hearts, they set out at the weekend on a coach escorted by troops from the Nato peace implementation force with the aim of planting a tree in Kozarac, a Serb village outside Prijedor and the home of Dusan Tadic, the Bosnian Serb trial in The Hague for war crimes.

"We wanted to plant a tree in Kozarac," said Gillian Keen, the group's spokeswoman, "because we believe good will, friendship, and dare say love, may make a difference when nothing else does. We planted trees in Mostar, Knin and Sarajevo and it only seemed fair to plant one there."

The group, made up of women from Europe and North America, claims to have no political or religious affiliation. The plan had been to plant the tree, then drive on to the Bosnian capital to meet other women.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 29 1996

FEATURES 17



Manners from heaven: the escort has long been familiar in society circles. Nowadays it is married businesswomen who pay for company

Pay and display: men who cost £75 an hour

Surely that handsome young man you sat next to at dinner last night can't be Lucifer's new beau? He isn't. He's the man from the agency. A friend of mine — public school and university educated, from a family whose name is blazoned in *Burke's Peerage* — has taken to turning a quick profit as a male escort.

As an 'unpublished' writer, he is as much in search of copy as cash, so he skirts his way around the social scene on the arm of a woman who has hired him for the night. The oldest profession in the world, it seems, is catching up with the equal opportunities of our times.

The gigolo — a breed as boudoir as his hair is buff-fant — has been around since the 1920s. A dapper dresser in blazer and slacks, with sentiments shallower than his suntan, he has long been familiar in society circles. There was Joan Collins's erstwhile escort "Bungalow Bill" — so called because he had nothing upstairs, but plenty downstairs.

The lounge lizard is sloughing off his old skin and finding himself much in demand again.

Rachel Campbell-Johnston on the Nineties gigolo

Or there was Larry Fortensky, alias Mr Elizabeth Taylor Number Eight. His wedding present was to get his fellow teeth and nails redone.

But the lounge lizard is sloughing off his old skin. I accompanied my friend one evening to meet his fellow escorts on one of their regular get-togethers in a bar in the Strand, in central London.

Manners fell from heaven. The hint of a cigarette raised to the lips brought on a rock concert flare of lighters. As I drifted through a haze of competing aftershaves, I came across a shy — and somewhat caged — young man who had come along to find out more about being an escort. A fuchsia spot of embarrassment blossomed on each cheek when I told him I was with *The Times*. "Don't mention my name in anything you

write," he pleaded. "I don't want my parents to know what I'm doing."

The next day a colleague approached me. "You met a friend of mine last night," he said. "I was at Eton with him and he phoned to ask me if I would ask you to please not mention his name."

Other escorts, however, were less shy about their work. Liam is 25. He was brought up in Kent and educated at private school and Sandhurst before joining The Blues and Royals. When he was injured in a fall from his horse he became a model, but with assignments few and far between he turned to escorting. Hired out at £75 an hour, he was first attracted to the job by the money.

He estimates that about 70 per cent of the women he takes out are married. "A typical client would be a travelling businesswoman," he explains. Alone in a strange city, a woman can find herself facing grim options when it comes to time to relax. In the bar she risks harassment from bumbling travelling salesmen. If she goes out to dinner, she falls prey to the sympathetic glances of cozier couples. "If she hires an escort, she can go out and feel comfortable, unthreatened and in control."

Liam's agency, L'Homme, has nearly 100 escorts on its files. The escorts operate nationwide and range in age from 20 to 60 and in nationality from Australian to Afro-Caribbean. But once a client has chosen Liam — above Barry, for instance, from NW9 who is interested in aromatherapy and world affairs, or Clifford of Godalming who bashfully boasts "the cutest bottom in Surrey" — his first contact with her will be by phone.

"It is important to ask them what sort of clothes they want me to wear, whether it is casual or black tie," Liam says.

"I have been booked for a dinner dance, for instance, when the tickets had been bought in advance but the

With an
escort a
woman
can go out
and feel in
control

London or needs a car, he borrows a Mercedes from a friend.

His client often gives him cash before they start out so that he can pay for taxis, drinks at the bar and cloakroom tips. He returns what is unused at the end of the evening. At dinner he usually chooses the wine, but tries to let the woman guide him regarding the price.

H e sometimes makes friends with his clients. During the past three months he has been going out regularly with the wife of an American businessman who is working so hard that he is too tired to go out at night. The couple have only recently moved to London and she has no friends here. Since she loves to salsa, she hires Liam to take her to Latin American clubs. "She is gradually beginning to meet people and soon she won't need me," Liam says.

Other engagements are strictly one-offs. One of Liam's colleagues was booked by a lesbian who had not yet dared

to come out. She hired a chaperone to accompany her to her sister's wedding to save her from the clutches of aged aunts demanding to know when she too would find herself a "nice young man".

Does an evening end with nothing more than a decorous peck on the cheek? "The women who book me," Liam says, "usually want company and companionship. They want a good night out, or an ear for all their problems. I try to provide that. What happens between consenting adults is their concern."

I can see that the Government believes it is not just protecting the interests of the manufacturers of baby milk, but also — more pointedly — those of the consumers, or rather the consumers' parents. If a baby is being fed on formula, then better not to worry his or her mother about it. There is already enough sniffing about the unfairness of making mothers feel guilty about not breastfeeding in the first place.

Shortly after I had my first baby, a midwife told me about some research into feeding. Apparently there had already been

amassed information in significant enough amounts to show a correlation between formula-feeding and, when compared to breastfed babies, an increased likelihood of cot death. Such findings would not be published, she said, because no one wanted to scare people, or to make those who fed their babies on formula feel worse about it.

The Government's mishandling of the BSE crisis — and it is its maladroitness that has made it into such a crisis — has made us all nervous and suspicious. Can a government minister truly believe that now, as he is questioned about the presence of phthalates in formula, is the time to tell us that "if we say things are safe, then that is what we mean"? Even to think of uttering such a remark shows a want of judgment, which is even more outrageous than the patronising high-handedness his answer also betrays.

I suppose in the first instance the concern must be whether there really is any danger in infant formula. Well, yes, we know the Government says there is none, but if, after all, its own research reveals that in some or all of the baby milk tested, there are present levels of chemicals which are known to have a feminising effect, potentially leading to reduced fertility in males and an increase in breast cancer in females, then clearly this is not some fantasy of an irresponsible press, as Her Majesty's ministers would like everyone to believe.

It's not that I believe the Government is necessarily lying, or that it is motivated by the ignoble desire to cover anything up, but surely any halfwit, even one in the present administration, could see that this cagey behaviour makes it look as if that is exactly what it is doing.

Besides, I cannot see any intellectual justification for withholding further information. It's no good saying condescendingly that the British public really doesn't want to be bothered with scientific tables which won't mean much to anyone, when clearly the British public is asking for more information, and along those lines. It may well be that the findings, unexplained, would lead people to worry unnecessarily, but it is not for the Government to tell us how or when we may legitimately worry, or what about.

I don't believe that a Labour government would behave any differently. All parties — as apologist know — behave in the same way once elected. Openness is always more attractive to those in opposition than to those in office. As far as the politicians are concerned, the great British public is a useful rhetorical touchstone, but just a damned nuisance when it thinks it can start interfering with the real business of government which, after all, knows best.

In the present instance the Government concludes that there is no danger, therefore no need to know. This at the very least shows muddled thinking: our right to have access to any data cannot depend on what that data might be or where it might lead. But most of all, I can't help feeling it is a bit rum coming from the lot who have decreed that only the guilty insist on the right to silence and that the innocent need no such protection.

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I didn't know we were fighting for the freedom to break windows and heads

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"What's that, Coren?"

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"Shrapnel, eh? Better let me take a look."

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"You give them a clout with Old Tom, sir."

"I give them a clout with Old Tom. Correct."

My knuckles still smart in wet weather. What kind of quadman calls his stick Old Tom? Nobody in 2a knew for certain why our dear form-master had not been called up, but the strong suspicion was that he was being held in reserve in case Hitler pulled anything really nasty, eg, poison gas, in which event Mr Churchill would tear up the Geneva Convention, send a khaki Humber tearing round to Barnham Park Primary, and parachute the crazy bastard into Berlin if that ever happened, we gave Hitler ten minutes.

He returned the bit of shrapnel at the end of term, though, after I had made a poignant plea for it on the grounds that it had helped to demolish my grandfather's greenhouse. The greenhouse copped it during a night raid on the Fairley Aviation factory at Hayes, a mile or so from the grandparental Wembley semi where I was then billeted, and I can still smell the dust from the carpet inside the Morrison shelter in the dining-room being beaten into nostrils by the concussions, and hear my grandfather tearing open the blackout curtains to see what the crash was all about, shouting: "They've got the greenhouse! They've got the greenhouse!", as if it had been the Luftwaffe's sole priority. Dornier pilots five miles up cheering and congratulating one another on having at last wiped out the geraniums at 4 Copland Avenue, breaking radio silence to morse the news to an ecstatic Goering, leaning out into the chill blackness to paint another greenhouse on the fuselage, turning joyously for home and Iron Crosses, arms linked, singing the Horst Wessel song.

Why now? Only because, after half a century, I went back to Wembley on Sunday evening for a bridge match, and we were a little early, so I drove around a bit in order to fascinate my wife with wondrous tales of vanished fish-parlour and Scout hut, and we went past the house I used to live in, and turned a corner into a similar quiet suburban street, and there came upon three Asian men putting up steel scaffolding poles, a dozen feet high, behind a front-garden wall.

But while we could see half of why they were doing this, because it had been done to the houses on either side where the poles were now supporting heavy steel mesh, we couldn't fathom the other half of the why, which was the half about needing 12ft high heavy steel mesh in the first place. So I pulled over and got out and asked them, and with that wry politeness which decent folk reserve for imbeciles they pointed out that Euro '96 was just a week away and Wembley Stadium only half a mile from where we stood. Which meant that for the three sporting weeks between June 8 and June 30, their street would be filled with countless sportsmen keen to bung bricks through their windows. What kind of sportsmen? Distraught supporters of knocked-out teams? Enraged victims of ticket touts and forgers, left seething to vent their spleen on anything breakable? Mainland continentals, perhaps, retaliating against John Major's War Cabinet? Well, no: for my old neighbourhood is now an Asian one, and where a generation back, it went in fear and trembling while Nazis smashed its glass, it goes in fear, in 1996, of exactly the same. Or, rather, almost exactly. The tiny difference is that the Nazis are British, now.

So count yourself fortunate, dear reader, that I have such little gift for irony. Otherwise, I might have made a bit of a meal of all this.



On being bloody-minded

Major's Operation Moo is a phoney war, but neither side will give an inch

Yesterday a British expeditionary force crossed the Channel and established contact with the enemy. Fighting at battalion strength, Brigadiers Freeman, Oppenheim and Chalker penetrated the Berlaymont enclave, braving a withering fire of ridicule. They replied with salvoes of *nons sens et ochus*. The enemy was surprised and took heavy casualties. It retreated to lick wounds of hilarity and amazement. The day went to our boys. Thanks be to God and St George.

The first engagement of the Great Beef War left a number of corpses on the battlefield. There will now be no further moves on Aids in the Third World, no help to Asian refugees and no steps to cut red tape for small firms. Ahead lie bolder horizons. British ministers will next fight efforts to curb Euro-fraud. They will veto a plan to counter drug dealing and improve liaison between police forces. With this salient secured, John Major may next commit his divisions against reforms to the common agricultural policy and a wider European Union. Europhobia is coursing his veins. The howls of the tabloids ring in his ears. No foreigner is safe from the thin red line of heroes when veto is in the air.

Never was it more true that politics is war by other means. The British Cabinet faces an enemy, has an objective and (we assume) has a war plan. The enemy is made up of the member governments of the European Union. The objective is ending the ban on British beef. The war plan is a secret, but Downing Street confirms that there is a war cabinet and a secretariat in place. Hostilities have been brought forward from next month's Florence summit. Operation Moo is under way.

The first threat to any plan comes not from the enemy but from Generals Mis-handling and Hindsight. They have their uses. Back in March, when the BSE story broke, the Government found British beef instantly banned by the French, Dutch, Belgians, Portuguese and five German states. These bans were illegal. They were imposed by the relevant authorities with obvious glee, supported by farm lobbyists eager to wipe out competition. (This has proved counter-productive: even farm lobbyists can make mistakes.) Given the limited nature of the "provocation", the bans were a gross abuse of the collective unity of the common agricultural policy.

All trade bans are evil. They are usually imposed by governments to prove their virility to some interest group. But some may be necessary evils. I suggested in March a swift retaliatory ban on continental beef, bloody noses of continental produce interests and to level the field for subsequent court action. If other governments chose gunboat diplomacy to exploit Britain's tentative (and honest) scientific research into BSE, the best reply was more gunboat diplomacy. A British ban against a country in which Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is more prevalent than in Britain (such as Germany) would be as defensible as Germany's ban against Britain.

We can argue all night over the handling. It was inviting overreaction for the British Government to

announce the BSE findings in that cauldron of hysteria, the House of Commons. But that does not affect the rights and wrongs. Had Britain retaliated at once, foreign governments would have protested that British scientists started all this. But the scientists specifically rejected any need for a ban. It was foreign governments who turned a scientific controversy into a war. They launched their bans before the EU veterinary committee had even met. They started this fight. Britain too had interests to defend. In diplomacy there is sometimes a virtue in being tough.

Mr Major did not take this route. He bided his time and had to watch mortified as the rest of Europe marshalled its forces against him. He retaliated only last week, and after the failure of the veterinary committee to lift the ban on British beef by-products. He eventually declared war over tallow and semen. That beats even the strange war of my name-sake's ear as an *absurd causus beli*.

The form of British retaliation was not to hurt the instigators of the war, the continental beef producers, and so turn the enemy's flank. Instead, Mr Major

attacked the workings of the Council of Ministers. He did so with a flurry of briefing about a "war cabinet", knowing this would stimulate an odious xenophobia in the tabloid media. Downing Street cannot plead innocent on this account. It knew what it was doing. (I wonder what will be tossed to the Right next week: capital punishment or a Divorce Bill capitulation?)

All this and more is presumably set out in the war plan. European delegates are meant to gasp as Roger Freeman, Lynda Chalker and Peter Oppenheim patrol the Brussels committee rooms reading out their BSE message, like gay rights demonstrators at an Anglican synod.

The foreign ministers are expected to crawl home and plead with their farm lobbies to see reason and welcome British beef back into their freezers. I am at a loss to see why they should.

French and German beef can be sold in Britain, but their producers are protected from reciprocal competition. If I were a continental farmer, I would not give an inch. I would pour cash into my consumer groups and lobbyists, insisting that British beef is unsafe and always will be, until every British cow is a cinder and every British farm is set aside for rambling.

On-cooperation may be magnificent to the chateau generals of Downing Street, but it is not what I call war. The engagement seems phoney. It smacks of Tweedledum and Tweedledee: "Let's fight till six and then have dinner." Cohorts of Eurocrats must be smirking behind their hands. As for the war plan, its course seems indeterminate. The "framework" demanded by Britain of the Council of Ministers for ending the ban is unlikely to help British beef back onto world markets. Yet its compensation cost of £2.4 billion is indefensible. This cannot make sense. Such money would be better spent on marketing, when the hue and cry has died down, than on slaughter.

Simon Jenkins

British public opinion is not stupid about Europe. There is no poll that shows a majority of Britons wanting to withdraw from the EU. But when so-called partners on the Council of Ministers behave like hostile trading powers, Britons want fair play. When they do not get fair play, they want retaliation.

Yes, the British Government is in trouble domestically. What is strange about that? The same is true of most democracies. Since the days of the Common Market, the European Union has had to tailor itself to the domestic sensitivities of member governments.

The sorry tale of the agricultural policy is one of weakness by all governments in the face of their farm lobbies. Behind that weakness lurk unmentionable monsters. Do not push the Germans too far in negotiation, British ministers are told. There is always a German election in the offing and dark forces are lurking in the shadows. Remember the French farmers and what terror they can strike in the streets of Paris. Never rock the Italian boat, for the Communists are waiting to take over. As for the Dutch, be kind to them. They are still in awe of the Germans.

And Britain? Britain is different. It is a land of settled government. Public opinion needs no referendums or recalls. When a British minister gives his word in negotiation, he carries the authority of a whipped Parliament and a deferential people. Britain sticks to the rules, implementing even the Brussels directives it detests. London is expected to accept whatever horror emerges from Europe. Politics may be the occupational disease of most democracies. Britain is supposedly immune.

This smug thesis has surely run its course. The same political virus is now raging through the British Government as through those of its European partners. A war has been declared. Mars has been awakened. He demands of those who summon him a most uncomfortable libation, either victory or defeat. We should leave aside talk of mishandling. Hostilities in the beef war were not opened by a scientist setting out a conundrum. They began with a French customs officer ripping apart a British beef lorry without legal authority. That is what sent British forces into Belgium yesterday. They have gone as fools. They had better come back as heroes.

Where the Tories and I may part
George Walden on what would make him resign the whip

When I announced that I would not wish to be a member of a super-patriotic Conservative Party, and that in certain circumstances I would be forced to consider detaching myself, I did not expect laudatory commentaries in the press. In our febrile atmosphere, I expected my views to be travestied and given an anti-patriotic spin, and I was not disappointed.

The Times portrayed me in an editorial as a Euroskeptic affiliated with the values and attitudes of an Enarque, who is out of touch with the popular mood. It cannot be that there is a non-Euroskeptic argument against nationalism, so critics must be converted into Euroskeptics. "If you are not with us you are against us" is an unpretty maxim for our major national newspaper. Equally tasteless are low allusions to foreign doctrines and connections.

Under the nationality test currently in progress, I can lay claim, though a non-cricketer, to all the patriotic virtues. I am opposed to further integration with Europe, and was one of the first to speak of a referendum on a single currency (which I also oppose). Unlike John Redwood, Michael Portillo and Norman Lamont, who were in Government at the time — though they could have resigned — I did not go into the Maastricht lobby without public demur, and abstained on a number of votes. Now as then, my view is that it was a treaty too far. My forebodings that Maastricht would produce nationalist tensions are coming true.

As for my alien instincts and doctrines, it is true that I have worked for my country as a diplomat. My experience fortified my belief that British sanity and sense of proportion are our major assets, on which much of our international influence rests, or rested. As for the talk about Enarques, the position is worse than my critics supposed. I spent a year at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA). That is one reason why I am opposed to centralising policies and mandarin attitudes, notably over Europe. When consulted by the Prince of Wales a few years ago about setting up an ENA here, I strongly objected, insisting that the last thing we need are more senior administrators, and that what works in one culture may not transfer to another.

On beef derivatives (God help us) my position is close to that of the sagacious Lord Rees-Mogg and no less sagacious Peter Riddell, stalwart patriots both. Our national position is unseemly and will rebound on our reputation, and against a Prime Minister who felt weak enough to succumb to his own pique and to petty nationalist pressures. In so doing he has demeaned us all. Patriots are not supposed to make fools of their own people.

I have a farming constituency, and although the farmers support the Government's actions I have heard not a single chauvinist word from them, or from the farmers' union. Like me, they know where the problem started, and do not pretend otherwise. Nor do they underestimate the difficulty of lifting a ban while consumers abroad lack confidence in our products. I have heard farmers, patriots to a man, expressing embarrassment at jingoism. To paraphrase Carlyle, when the very tailors become *sans-culottes*, it is time to take note.

As for my intentions, the first is to oppose the rancid Little Englandism that has gripped the country by whatever means I can, if only because a noisy and peevish Little Englander is a most ridiculous person. To bring down the Government over tallow would be ridiculous too. Equally it would be absurd to subject my constituents and endlessly tolerant Conservative Association chairman and agent to a beef-by-election.

Moreover, should it go in the Government's favour, which is not impossible since my vote has increased over three elections to 62 per cent, the victory would give the Government a boost, so encouraging our nationalists to greater endeavours. Even Enarques and mandarins, you see, can understand low politics.

But these are reveries. I shall continue to vote with the Government because I believe that most of what it is doing is right, and because I am not attracted to Labour or the Liberal Democrats. But for me, policy towards Europe is a defining issue. The Tories have weapons enough against Labour — the single currency, the veto, the social chapter — without plastic Union Jacks made in Taiwan.

The issue which could cause me to say farewell to the party is not easy to predict. If the Government does not know where it is going, how can I? The danger is that it has got itself into a position from which it cannot win. The pressure on John Major not to fail the cricketing test by "seeing it through" will be great. When he gets his derivatives victory, as no doubt he will, or his bit of paper promising a "framework" to lift the ban, I predict cries of "Chamberlain". The Times among others will say that it is not enough, and that he is flinching from the main battle. If he doesn't succeed with beef, it will say the same.

For the moment, I groan and bear it. But if Mr Major is goaded into widening the assault and extending non-cooperation, I am dismissive of the accusations. "We could see the ground and didn't, as far as we could tell, cross the border." The Poles do not agree and the matter is to be investigated by British authorities.

P.H.S.

Princely some

BIG IDEAS are not strange turf for the Prince of Wales, but the disclosure on this page by the man of the moment, George Walden, that he once considered setting up a British equivalent of the French Ecole Nationale d'Administration represents a step up in thinking. The ENA, set up by de Gaulle to train the generation of post-Vichy civil servants, is maligned and mythologised across Europe.

Graduates include the French President, Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, and legions of mandarins and technocrats.

To its admirers, the ENA is the ultimate finishing school, producing top-notch administrative plumbers, the sort who devour briefings for breakfast. To its detractors, it is a nursery for sneaky Eurocrats with paternalistic mega-schemes for Europe and the morality of a hundred Talleyrand.

Unsurprisingly, in the Seventies, Ted Heath instituted a programme for Whitehall high-flyers to attend the Ecole for a year, learning the dark arts of French administration.

"It is most odd that the Prince is considered setting up an ENA in Britain," says a perplexed Euro-

sceptic MP. "The place only ever produces the Euro-crazy sort who manipulate their leaders rather than serving them."

• Poor George Best. Fifty last week, on the wagon, and now being stood up at the pictures. The other day, he was spotted at his local cinema in Chelsea, frankly tapping his watch, his men gloomy. After much pacing around, he finally entered alone

DIARY
just before the start of the film, a thriller called Copycat. "He left just before the film finished," says an observer. "Perhaps he didn't want to be seen leaving alone."

Into touch
TWICKENHAM is on the march. The latest victims of the new stony-faced professionalism of rugby union are the primary school children of the London suburb. For 26 years they have had their sports day at the famous local stadium. Now the Rugby Football Union, which runs the place, have booted them out in favour of more lucrative bookings.

Having endured the heavy traffic brought on by the RFU's empire-building, locals have had enough. The talk in the hydrants is now of picketing.

The RFU attributes its action to

a problem with its turf reseeding programme after extra fixtures. But Martin Vassallo, chairman of the local primary school sports association, thinks this a feeble excuse. "I feel for the children, because to see them run onto that famous pitch is wonderful," he says. "But this seems to be the way rugby is going."

And stick
ANOTHER misfire from Europe. Offering a two-for-one price on trips to Paris, the company sent out packages to 100,000 customers. On the package was a picture of a red rose. Inside was a carrot, an advertiser's gimmick to underline the generosity of the offer. Bad idea.

By the time the freshly dug carrots reached their destinations they were black, mildewed and less than conducive to thoughts of a romantic break in Paris. Euro-star's marketing director, Mark Furlong, defends his decision. "They were only in the container for two or three days," he says. "and it was never our intention that the carrot was something to keep and cherish."

• I hope the organisers of Chichester Cathedral's weekend flower festival have a sense of humour.

Entitled "Darkness into Light", the show is in trouble after an extended power failure.

Bad turn
NOT SINCE Mathias Rust touched down in Red Square nine years ago has there been a story to match Mark Jefferies' weekend foray into Polish airspace. Jefferies, 37, a former British aerobatic champion, was buzzing around with two other aircraft at an air show east of Berlin. One wrong turn, according to Polish authorities, and Jefferies had back-flipped his Yakovlev II some three miles into Polish airspace.

In the light of the Second World War, Poles are not much amused by the sight of two Russian planes and one German zooming in on them. Within moments, the wires were screeching, with Poland's top brass firing off messages to the show's organisers.

"Chalkie" Jefferies, who once destroyed an instrument panel with his head during an abortive take-off, is dismissive of the accusations. "We could see the ground and didn't, as far as we could tell, cross the border." The Poles do not agree and the matter is to be investigated by British authorities.

P.H.S.



SURPLUS
The Defence Ministry

...and the rest of the page continues with various columns and articles, including a large cartoon by Peter Brookes at the top of the page.



A VOICE FOR ULSTER

Why Conor Cruise O'Brien brings hope to the North

Twenty-two years ago, representatives of Ireland North and South, nationalist and Unionist, tried, in the shadow of a Berkshire golf course, to secure a stable constitutional settlement in Ulster. After the Sunningdale talks, Ian Paisley saw a sell-out and Gerry Adams brought back the gunmen. A generation later those two men have hardly moved. But one man who tried to make the Sunningdale agreement work, although he knew well its flaws, has come far.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, an Irish nationalist and minister in the Dublin Government during the Seventies is now, at the age of 78, fighting a new political battle. He is standing in tomorrow's elections to the Ulster peace convention. This former nationalist now hopes to represent the Unionists in another series of talks to determine Ulster's future.

Dr O'Brien's odyssey is the story of reason, sympathy and democracy winning out over blood and myth. And few are more supremely qualified to speak on this issue either by intellect or sentiment. His study of Edmund Burke, *The Great Melody*, is one of the finest analyses of that beguiling combination, the liberal and the conservative. Both men share Irish birth, a sympathy for the oppressed, a feeling for tradition and, through those characteristics, a message for today. If Northern Ireland is to find peace it should find a place for Dr O'Brien at the table.

When he sat in the Irish Cabinet, Dr O'Brien tried to secure peace on the basis of Sunningdale, with power-sharing in the Province and a Council of Ireland to transcend the border. But already he knew that while power-sharing was a far from perfect but worthwhile attempt to escape from past mistakes, undermining the wish of Ulster's people to remain British was counterproductive.

As a Catholic and a liberal he sought to move Ulster beyond sectarianism. But as a democrat he recognised that it was the

sincere and settled wish of Ulster's majority to remain within the Union. Since then Dr O'Brien has moved from sympathy for Unionism, to vocal support, and now to standing for the United Kingdom Unionist Party (UKUP). He has risked the dislodging and begrudging words of Dublin to stand up for the principle that Ulster's future should be settled by democrats, not dictated by terrorists.

Both as journalist and politician, Dr O'Brien has consistently penetrated Sinn Fein's empty formulas. He has argued that the revolutionary soldiers of the IRA may sometimes change tactics but never their violent and undemocratic intentions. He has been called a Cassandra and suffered her cold comfort. When the IRA ceasefire ended with the murder of two innocents he was proved, sadly, right.

The UKUP is a new party, founded by Robert McCartney, MP for North Down and a successful barrister born in working-class loyalist Belfast. Unlike many sons of the Shankill he is resolutely opposed to the Protestant triumphalism of traditional Unionism. His party is non-sectarian, pluralist, and committed to making the Union work. The UKUP's stance has seen the Ulster Unionist Party of David Trimble place a Catholic on its list of candidates for the peace poll. But for Unionists who prefer constitutional to confessional politics the UKUP, Mr McCartney and Dr O'Brien will be an attractive alternative.

Their intervention, and that of a host of other parties who claim to speak for the Unionist majority, has led David Trimble to give warning warn of a "shredding" of the Unionist vote. There is a danger that moderate voices will be marginalised. But, in the longer term, the Unionist embrace of voices such as Conor Cruise O'Brien's — tolerant, intelligent and Catholic — will make it more likely that the greater number in Ulster who believe in the Union will win the stability that the Province needs.

TURKEY IN TROUBLE

Secular forces must combine against the Islamic threat

Turkey is one of the most vital members of the Atlantic alliance, a country whose regional and geostrategic importance to the West has grown considerably since the break-up of the Soviet Union, the fighting in the Balkans and the Gulf War. Yet for the past six months, since general elections in December, the country has been rudderless, unable to form a stable government and beset by the bickering of politicians.

Yesterday Mesut Yilmaz, the embattled Prime Minister, insisted he would not resign unless his former coalition partners, Tansu Ciller and her True Path Party, were able to make a deal with the opposition Islamists. His defiance was an attempt to rally Turkey's squabbling secular politicians and unite the Centre-Right against the Welfare Party, the largest single block in Parliament, which Necmettin Erbakan, its Islamist leader, insists is on the point of gaining power. Were it to do so, more than 70 years of secular politics would be at risk. Ataturk's legacy, including post-Ottoman Turkey's Western orientation, political moderation and social progress, would be thrown into jeopardy.

Mrs Ciller, fighting corruption charges and resentful of what she regards as betrayal by Mr Yilmaz, with whom she initially formed a coalition, is in no mood to listen. Her party is now flirting with the Islamist opposition; underlining its centre-right views and playing down the deep division over the role of religion in politics. Her tactics are cause for concern, within Turkey and abroad.

The Welfare Party maintains that it is neither fundamentalist nor anti-Western. Such claims need to be examined sceptically. It is true that since the party captured control of Istanbul in local elections, it has not enforced the kind of puritanical regime its opponents prophesied: rather, it has had

some success in reforming social services and reducing corruption. Nevertheless, the party's roots go deep into Turkey's past. It draws on a rural, Islamic tradition never completely suppressed by Ataturk, and has been reinforced by young radicals inspired by the example of Islamic activism elsewhere in the Middle East.

A win by the Welfare Party would send a shudder throughout Nato. It would call into question many of the fundamental assumptions that have made Turkey such a steadfast ally. Ankara, under Mr Erbakan, would also certainly renounce the recently signed military co-operation agreement with Israel — an agreement denounced by Mr Erbakan in terms so unpleasant that they verged on outright anti-Semitism. In seeking to strengthen its Islamic identity, Turkey could side with Arab opponents of the Middle East peace process; it might turn a blind eye to Islamic terrorists seeking shelter; and it would probably cease to be the linchpin on which the West's enforcement of the no-fly zone over northern Iraq rests. The future of American bases in Turkey would be less secure, as would Turkish commitments to Nato. And Turkey's relative restraint in its quarrel with Greece would turn to militant bullying.

Alarm would be raised not only in the West. The Turkish armed forces, the guardians of the secular Ataturk legacy, might be tempted to intervene — a dangerous move at a time when Turkey is using its regional power to set an example to Central Asia. Mr Yilmaz is due to meet President Demirel tomorrow. He should tell him that he will resign and set about immediately forming a new and durable coalition with Mrs Ciller. Only by setting aside their personal animosities can they give Turkey the responsible leadership it deserves.

SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS

The Defence Ministry makes a good income from its disposals

Pssst... wanna buy a used howitzer? Off the back of an army surplus lorry? Or even the lorry itself? The Ministry of Defence has embarked upon the sale of the century — or at least the second such. The end of the last World War spawned the first big disposal of surplus kit: the end of the Cold War is bidding fair to match it.

Between 1945 and 1950, the Services sold off 885,000 lots over 2,450 selling days: equivalent to a non-stop auction lasting for nearly seven years. Civilians were delighted to bid for Forces gear when so little food, clothing and equipment could be bought on the open market. And the quality of goods issued to servicemen was higher too.

But that soon changed. Army gear became so ill-designed that many soldiers took to buying their own. In the Falklands War, those soldiers who suffered from trench foot looked enviously at their comrades who had bought their boots from camping shops. The Army-issue windcheaters swished, the packs were heavy and the sweaters scratchy. Civilians might from time to time have adopted army surplus gear as a bargain fashion item; but it was not much good at its primary purpose of keeping its occupants warm and dry.

The new kit, called Combat Soldier 95, is

now as high-spec as the lurid gear that ramblers and mountaineers sport to irritate country-dwellers. When this fits the army surplus stores, civvies who would rather blend in with their surroundings than advertise their presence will rush to buy it.

Meanwhile, however, the huge stock of other gear that was built up during the Cold War to ensure that Britain could fight an instant battle is starting to hit the streets.

Last year the Disposal Sales Agency netted £78.6 million for the taxpayer in job lots ranging from frigates to combat jackets, minesweepers to navy rum. This new executive agency, set up in 1994, appreciates the value of stock that used to be sold for a pittance. By bringing in private-sector contractors to match buyers with surpluses, the agency managed to make more money for the Ministry of Defence in three days last year than it had in the previous 12 months of auctions.

Usually the running-down of stocks is seen as a sign of recession. In the Ministry of Defence it is a sign of peace. Purists should not sneer at the heavy marketing, complete with certificates signed by General Sir Peter de la Billière, of gold sovereigns issued to special forces in the Gulf War. Of such good husbandry are tax cuts made.

Judges' discretion when sentencing

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, Simon Jenkins is wrong in suggesting (article, May 25) that the cause of the judges' disapproval of the Home Secretary's proposals for automatic life sentences on a second conviction for some violent crimes and minimum ones on a third conviction for domestic burglary and some drug offences is that they see them as an attack on their profession. They do not. They see them as an affront to the justice which is their function and duty to safeguard. They regard themselves as the Queen's delegates to perform the part of her Coronation Oath whereby she undertook "to cause law and justice in mercy to be executed in all [her] judgments".

It may be difficult for those who have not spent their professional lives in the courts to appreciate that those who have really do believe that on the evidence in each case they should identify what justice in mercy requires to be done. This is what matters to them, nothing else.

Were I still a judge it would go against my conscience to sentence an offender, whatever previous convictions he may have had, to life imprisonment for causing grievous bodily harm with intent in an all too common an offence, if the evidence had shown, as it sometimes does, that he had been provoked into a momentary loss of temper.

Nor would I willingly sentence to a minimum of three years' imprisonment a socially inadequate and penniless man who, living in a hostel, had walked into another's room, broken open the gas meter there and stolen the contents. Under the Theft Act 1968 in some circumstances this would amount to domestic burglary.

Thankfully, being in retirement, I shall never have to pass sentences which I believe to be unjust.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village, Skelton, York.
May 25.

From the Home Secretary

Sir, Simon Jenkins makes two errors which invalidate his conclusion.

First, it is quite wrong to suggest that my proposal for an automatic life sentence for repeat sexual assault or violent offenders is "a straight shift of power" from the judiciary and the Parole Board to Home Office ministers and officials. Home Office ministers and officials will have no role in the new sentence.

The trial judge will set the "tariff" — the minimum period of imprisonment to be served. Near the completion of the tariff, the Parole Board will assess whether the offender still poses a risk to the public. If he does not he will be released; if he does he will not.

In this way the public will be protected from the most serious offenders in a way that simply does not happen now.

Simon Jenkins suggests that the figures in the White Paper for the sentencing of repeat burglars were specially selected to support my proposals. The figures in the White Paper were the most up-to-date then available. Further figures for periods after the 1991 Act had been repealed and figures for earlier periods before the 1991 Act had been implemented show a very similar pattern of sentencing.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOWARD,
Home Office,
50 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
May 27.

From Mr Leslie G. Leek

Sir, I believe that, with his unprecedented attack on Michael Howard's policies, the retiring Lord Chief Justice is totally out of step with the vast majority of the public who believe that the law favours the criminal classes and fails to support the law-abiding.

In every community there are individuals who constantly flout the law and are free within hours to commit similar offences, making decent people's lives a misery.

When they are eventually sentenced to dastardly terms of imprisonment they have no fear of prison with its lax regime and know that parole, remission and home-leave schemes will very soon see them back on the streets again. Everyone should back the Home Secretary and help us to rid society of persistent criminals.

One thing is sure: criminals cannot harm the rest of us when they are locked up.

Yours etc,
LESLIE G. LEEK,
Trelawney House,
St Ives,
Cornwall TR26 2DE.
May 23.

From Mr Martin Walker

Sir, With at least 600,000 private investors applying for shares in Railtrack (report, Business, May 20) surely it is part of our Government's re-election strategy to believe that a significant number of these investors will now vote to protect their new shareholding at the next general election.

The wallet is an important consideration for the floating voter.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN WALKER,
6 Bramley Close,
Pill, Bristol, Avon.
May 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Judges' discretion when sentencing

From Mr N. J. D. Baptiste

Sir, Anatole Kalentsky ("Economic consequences of the 'war' against Europe", Business, May 23) considers that informed opinion has moved too far towards Euroscepticism. However, many would draw the opposite conclusion from his diagram showing the relative real exchange rates for five leading countries compared with Britain.

In spite of the huge competitive advantage gained by Britain following the sterling devaluation after leaving the ERM, our total trade (visible and invisible) with the other EU countries showed a deficit of £4.6 billion for 1995. Our total cumulative trade deficit with them since 1973 now stands at around £95 billion.

As a result of the declining growth rate of the continental EU countries, which is likely to fall below 1 per cent on present trends as pre-EMU budget reductions increase, only 44 per cent of our exports now go to the EU, while the last quarter's figures suggest that we will fall to less than 10 per cent for the complete year.

The cost of "achieving" such a dire result — for which directors of a plc would have been shown the door by shareholders — was a net contribution to Brussels, after rebates of some £3.5 billion in 1995, plus the loss of national sovereignty over large areas of our national life.

It therefore appears deeply illogical that CBI leaders should consider that there is no alternative to Britain's membership of the EU — especially as two thirds of our industry's investments are overseas while it has spent over £7 billion in the last year in buying more than 100 companies in the US. Trade with the Far East is also rising and profitable.

By contrast, Norway's membership of the European Economic Area provides it with full national sovereignty, low inflation, a substantial trade surplus and the highest growth rate in

Europe (4 per cent), while 80 per cent of its exports are sent to EU countries free of trade and tariff barriers.

Unsurprisingly, recent Norwegian opinion polls show that the percentage in favour of staying out of the EU is now 10 per cent higher than it was when the national EU referendum was held. Perhaps Mr Major will draw the logical conclusions.

Yours faithfully,
N. J. D. BAPTISTE,

23 Gladwyn Road, Putney, SW15.
May 23.

From Mr Keith Robinson

Sir, Anatole Kalentsky takes a laudably rational and self-appraising approach in his speculative analysis of the benefits to the UK of monetary union. I agree with him that it would be foolish to rule out the possibility of locking in a permanent competitive advantage over Germany.

However, the economic detail he sketches in is surely part of a much larger and more enduring picture, in which the greater part of the British people are still Little Englanders, willing to continue carving their niche in the world through limited and traditional European co-operation. The same painting depicts the Germans as having, at least in their leaders' European vision, tendencies of domination that we grew out of decades ago.

Given that the national economic argument is surrounded by these historical inclinations and culture differences, is not the "lock-in" likely to be very short-term? Would not the safer scenario for our national sovereignty and dignity conform with the fuller painting rather than Mr Kalentsky's pencil sketch?

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Yours faithfully,
KEITH ROBINSON,
The Wilderness,
Littlewick Green,
Maidenhead, Berkshire.
May 23.

Ogoni murders

From Mr Kenneth Kobani

Sir, As the son of one of the four Ogoni leaders for whose murder Mr Saro-Wiwa was executed last November and for which 19 others are still awaiting trial in Nigeria, I was dismayed to read your report of May 15 (see also leading article, May 16).

These men were arrested along with about 400 others and, after several identification parades, were identified by eye-witnesses as participants in the brutal murder of the prominent Ogoni opponents of Ken Saro-Wiwa. They were not arrested for any form of environmental activism, as their wealthy foreign backers would like the world to believe.

I believe that many supporters of Saro-Wiwa have failed to grasp the nature of the campaign he conducted in Ogoniland, in particular how Ogonis were summoned before his kangaroo courts, to be tried and sentenced, many never to be seen again.

But I can also understand why those behind the Saro-Wiwa campaign are not interested in the torture and brutal murder of my father and the three others in broad daylight and the ritualistic dismembering, burning and eating of their remains. These victims were not leisureed enough to make regular visits to Europe and America, or rich enough to make expensive, cunningly filmed and edited documentaries to charm gullible liberals in the West.

Such distortions need to be corrected. Peace and reconciliation in Ogoniland will largely depend on the recognition by Saro-Wiwa's supporters that under Nigerian law "human rights activists" or "minority rights campaigners" have no right to take the lives of others.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH KOBANI,
46 Bladon Court, SW16.
May 16.

Millennium priorities

From Mr Ed Hucks

Sir, I was interested by your report of May 15 [see also letters, May 22] on the £170 million proposal to refurbish the South Bank and the hope of a £127 million contribution from the National Lottery.

Earlier that day I visited a school in Bradford where the education of half the 460 children is carried out in seven "temporary" huts of appalling quality with serious health and safety hazards and little or no security.

This is not an isolated example: there are 500 such huts in use in this area and no doubt many more throughout the country. The Government's capital investment in Bradford as a whole this year is £4.1 million — just 3.2 per cent of the hoped-for lottery money for the South Bank.

As an executive director of a major employer in the city I am deeply concerned at the deprivation our education system has suffered and the long-term effect this will have on our society.

Much has been talked about grants and lottery money for the refurbishment of landmarks in London and the marking of the millennium with other expensive constructions. While recognising the country's need for certain showpieces, surely we also need to examine our priorities as a nation and strike a sensible balance between the essential and the nice to have.

Yours faithfully,
ED HUCKS
(Customer Service Director),
National and Provincial
Building Society,
Provincial House,
Bradford, West Yorkshire.
May 2



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 28: The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, and President, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, left Dyce Airport, Aberdeen, this morning for visits to Geneva, Bern and Zurich, Switzerland, and Gibraltar.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Richards is in attendance.

The Baroness Trumpington (Baroness in Waiting) called upon the Governor-General of St Kitts and Nevis at the Copthorne Tara Hotel, Wrights Lane, London W8, this morning and, on behalf of The Queen, welcomed His Excellency on his arrival in this country.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will attend a reception given by the Royal School of Church Music at St James's Palace at 6.30.

The Duke of York will visit York to mark the 600th anniversary of the granting of the first charter. He will visit an exhibition of local enterprise in the Guildhall, York, at 10.35; will visit the new One-Stop community centre at 11.40; will attend a luncheon reception at the Assembly Rooms at 12.45; will visit the urban regeneration project at Bell Farm Housing Estate, at 2.15; and will attend a dinner at Merchant Adventurers' Hall at 7.30.

The Princess Royal as President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, will attend President's Day at the Moredon Foundation, Pentlands Park, Bush Estate, Penicuik, at 9.45; and will open the display by Henry Poole & Company in the Textile and Dress Department, Victoria and Albert Museum at 7.00.

Princess Margaret will visit the Horse Rangers Association at their headquarters at the Royal Mews, Hampton Court Palace, at 2.30.

Cambridge

Schola Cantorum
Elected into School Teacher Bye-Fellowships for Easter Term 1997:
Martina Chis, of the Sheffield College; Graham Seal, of Manchester Grammar School.

CLARENCE HOUSE
May 28: Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox has succeeded the Hon Mrs Rhodes as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

JAMES'S PALACE
May 28: The Prince of Wales this evening gave a Reception for the Friends of Mount Athos.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 28: The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment this morning received Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Davidson-Houston on relinquishing the appointment of Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Barry Paddison on relinquishing the appointment of Commanding Officer of the 2nd (Volunteer) Battalion.

Dinner

Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress received the guests of a dinner given by the Master, Wardens and members of the Livery of the Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers' Company last night at the Mansion House.

Mr Peter Sparks, Master, presided. Mr James Smillie, Senior Warden, and Sir Rodney Swemman, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, also spoke.

Fruieterers' Company

Lieutenant-Colonel L.G. French has been appointed Clerk to the Fruieterers' Company on the retirement of Commander M.T.H. Styles, RN.

Gardeners' Company

The following were elected officers of the Gardeners' Company for the ensuing year at a Court Meeting held yesterday: Master, Mr J.R. Flanagan; Upper Warden, Mr R.P. Franklin; Renter Warden, Mr J.F. Palmer. Later the Fairchild Lecture was delivered by Prebendary Peter Delaney, Honorary Chaplain, at the Annual Guild service at St Giles, Cripplegate.

Birthdays today

Mr Colin Amery, architectural writer and historian, 52; Mr Michael Berkeley, composer and broadcaster, 48; Sir Douglas Black, physician, 83; Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the Board of Governors, BBC, 58; Sir Kenneth Couzens, former chairman, Coal Products, 71; Mr Quentin Davies, MP, 52; Sir Jeremy Elwes, chairman, St Helier National Health Service Trust, 59; Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, 53; Lieutenant-General Sir Martin Garrod, 61; Sir Anthony Grant, MP, 71; Miss Linda Esther Gray, opera singer, 48; Mrs Patricia Harris, former central president, The Mothers' Union, 57; Sir Robin Haydon, diplomat, 76; Sir John Herbet, civil servant, 74; Sir Trevor Holdsworth, former

chairman, National Power, 69; Mr Bob Hope, comedian, 93; Mr David Jenkins, former librarian, National Library of Wales, 84; Mr Ukyo Katayama, racing driver, 33; Professor Robert Knox, bacteriologist, 92; Mr Alan Langlands, chief executive, NHS management executive, 44; Sir James Marjoribanks, diplomat, 85; the Earl of Morley, 73; Miss Nanette Newman, actress, 57; Mr Terry Pavey, former Editor, TV Times, 53; Mr Martin Pipe, racehorse trainer, 51; Lord Rankeilour, 61; Mr Francis Rossi, rock singer and guitarist, 47; Mr Alvin Schuckmöhle, showjumper, 59; Mr Carl Toms, stage designer, 69; Professor R.L. Wain, agricultural scientist, 85; the Earl of Wilton, 72; General Sir Richard Worsley, 72.

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

BY MICHAEL J HENDRIE
ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY is a morning star but rises no more than an hour before the Sun and will not be visible, despite being at greatest western elongation (24 degrees) on the 10th.

Venus begins June as a -4.2 magnitude evening star, setting only an hour after the Sun on the 1st. It passes through inferior conjunction on the 10th and then reappears in the morning sky rising more than an hour before the Sun by the 30th.

Mars rises less than two hours before the Sun and is still in bright twilight as it moves eastwards through Aries into Taurus.

Jupiter is -2.6 magnitude, low in the southern sky for much of the night, among the stars of Sagittarius. Moon to the north on the 3rd-4th.

Saturn rises by 21h in late June, passing slowly from Pisces into Cetus. Moon to the north on the 9th.

Uranus is in Capricornus rising about sunset by the end of the month. Moon to the north on the 5th-6th.

Neptune is in Sagittarius rising a little before Uranus.

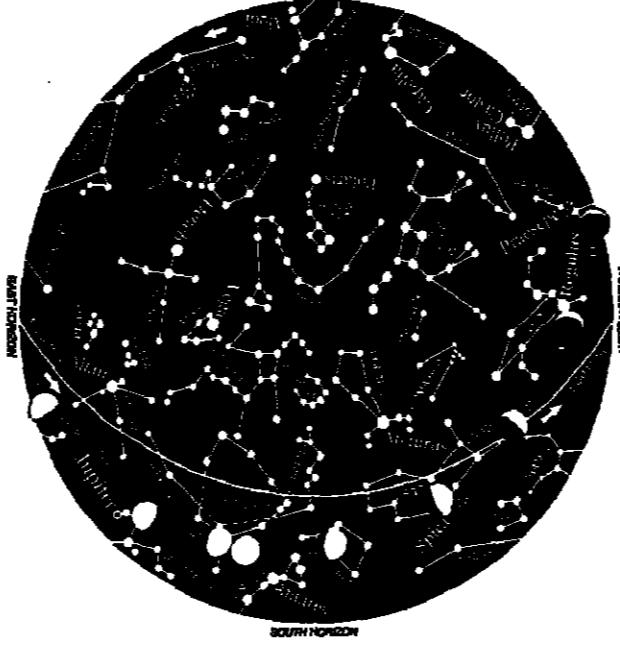
Moon: full Moon 1d 21h; last quarter 8d 11h; new Moon 1d 02h; first quarter 24d 05h.

Earth: the summer solstice is on 21d 02h.

Sunset on the 1st 20h 10m and on the 30th at 20h 25m while sunrise is at 03h 50m and 03h 45m on the same dates.

Astronomical twilight lasts all night in June. One phenomenon visible from much of the British Isles for a few

The sky at night in June



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h 01 min at the beginning, 22h 10 min in the middle, and 21h 09 min at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if placed east. In the diagram the circle is drawn to show the horizon; the south is along (down) the bottom, the zenith is at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes unless otherwise stated.

weeks only, around the time of the summer solstice, is that of noctilucent clouds. They occur at high latitudes and at heights of about 80 km (50 miles) while most ordinary cloud is below 15 km. If visible at all, they will be low in the northern sky.

There were good displays on June 2, 1994, and in 1995, visible from as far south as the English Channel coast. On clear evenings watch to the NNE over the horizon, one needs a clear northern skyline but a

really dark site is not necessary.

Noctilucent clouds can be photographed on black and white or colour film and with 100-200 ASA film speed and a fast lens (f/2) an exposure of 10 seconds should be sufficient.

In May the first results of comet Hyakutake were mentioned. The comet gave a very good showing as it sped by the Earth at a minimum distance of only 15 million km but appears to have faded as it left us despite closing with the Sun at the same time. Hopes that it would brighten again and show an extensive dust tail near perihelion on May 1 seem not to have been fulfilled.

While giving us a fine display and rivalling many earlier bright comets, its behaviour still suggests an average comet made spectacular by its closeness to us rather than the unusually large one as some predicted. Early radar results from the United States give 1 to 3 km for the size of the nucleus compared to 15 to 8 km for Halley's comet. The Hubble Space Telescope was unable to resolve the nucleus, which supports the case for its small size. The comet showed activity seen until now only in large comets but then few fainter comets have been closely observed.

The clouds, usually silvery or bluish-white, can be bright enough to be readily noticeable. They often form little lanes of cloudlets, a lattice pattern of cirrus-like wisps. Being only a few degrees above the horizon, one needs a clear northern skyline but a

black against the twilight sky. If noctilucent cloud is present it will appear bright as it is still lit by the Sun from below our northern horizon. During the night the clouds may move round towards the NNE.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 29 1996

21

OBITUARIES

Lord Margadale,
Conservative MP for
Safisbury, 1942-64, and
chairman of the 1922
Committee, 1955-64, died
on May 26 aged 89. He was born
on December 16, 1906.

LORD MARGADALE, who sat for more than thirty years in the Commons as Major John Morrison, was a key figure in the Conservative Party through the reigns of three party leaders — Anthony Eden, Harold Macmillan and Alec Douglas-Hamilton. As chairman of the 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers for nine years, he had the responsibility of steady difficult people in the ranks, taking the party temperature and then telling successive Prime Ministers to what extent their policies were acceptable to the party in Parliament. He had the confidence of both ministers and backbenchers. It helped enormously, of course, to be totally unambitious. Office he did not want. Money he did not need. His shrewd ancestors had left him plenty of that.

One former Prime Minister said of him: "He was that rare person, a wise man. If he told you a certain minister had lost the confidence of the party, you hesitated. Nobody likes sacking people. But he would be proved right by subsequent events." Another said: "He knew what the Conservative Party in the country would stand for and he was never ambiguous about it. Sometimes what he reported to me I did not like but there was no question of it being other than accurate."

He relied for his information on what he called "people who knew what they were talking about". He did not read books. Newspapers got little more than a cursory glance at the main headlines, a brief look at the deaths column and then a protracted study of the racing pages. In this sense of priorities he certainly reflected the contemporary image of a Tory "knight of the shires" — though Morrison himself never accepted a knight-hood.

As a background heavyweight politician he did not lack critics. The years of his influence were for the Conservative Party among the toughest this century. First, there was the Suez adventure when Anthony Eden as Prime Minister tried by force to take the Suez Canal back from Nasser. The subsequent abrupt withdrawal of British troops bewildered the party. Eden's three-week absence in the West Indies in an effort to repair his

shattered health did not help. Then there was the 1957 battle for the succession with the surprise choice — at least as far as the country was concerned — of Harold Macmillan over Rab Butler.

In 1963 renewed succession trouble erupted out in the worst circumstances of all for the Tories, the bearpit of a party conference at Blackpool. Macmillan sent a letter saying that he was resigning for health reasons. Pandemonium broke out. Hats were being thrown into the ring. Unrest filled the air. Tory leaders were still at the time evolving from what Iain Macleod called "the magic circle". The result on this occasion was so messy that it was resolved that what were then known as "the customary processes of consultation" must never be used again.

Such a public spectacle was anathema to Morrison, who had his own way of doing things. Late every Sunday afternoon he would retire to his study for hours, and telephone influential backbenchers. The conversation always followed the same pattern. "What's the news?" he would begin. All key strands of opinion on the back benches were consulted in this way. Those in the habit of being rung were known to store up news all week hoping he would call. When they had said their bit, there would be a pleasant and brief goodbye. There was never any conversation. He was a man of few words. Conversation was not something he enjoyed even within his own family. But he loved the telephone. As a former Prime Minister put it: "He was a superb good listener. He would pick up the grain that mattered."

When government business was in danger, as it was over Edward Heath's abolition of Resale Price Maintenance in 1964, he had other methods. Recalcitrant backbenchers would be asked to luncheon in a private room at the Savoy. Officially these luncheons never took place but those who participated were known as "the cloak-and-dagger lunch job".

Here again he had his own particular style. When people had been well watered and wined Morrison — who spoke only a few times in the House during all his time there — would spell out to his guests what it would mean to their countryside, their homes, their towns if there was not a strong Conservative Party. One victim remembers getting "almost a barack square bollocking from a normally very quiet man".



He did his own constituency duties faithfully, much helped by his wife who predeceased him by more than a decade. On one occasion he hitched a plough to a tractor and cleared a way to a snowed-in children's hospital that was close to running out of food. Speeches, though, were never his métier. Once invited to give a speech on education in his constituency, he asked a member of his family to provide appropriate notes, then called over his shoulder: "Put them on a postcard."

Usually he went to the annual Conservative Party conference only on the last day for the leader's speech. Although a powerful man at the centre of things he would be unrecognised — but not unnoticed. He was well over 6ft tall with a massive build, and exuding a powerful confidence and representatives would ask each other who he was, puzzled by the fact that this splendid-looking man was taking his seat on the second row on the platform.

His real moorings were in the countryside. On a one-day's shoot at Ballater near Balmoral he once shot 52 grouse with 55 cartridges. Another time on Islay he bagged 128 snipe in one day. He was not an elegant shot as he rounded his shoulders and crouched over his gun but he was an exceptional one. His South and West Wilts Foxhounds, of which he was master for 34 seasons, more than once took the championship at Peterborough, the national foxhound show.

Home was Fonthill House on a fine estate in Wiltshire which his great-grandfather had purchased for his second son, Morrison's grandfather and also an MP for Salisbury. For the summer recess he would go to his house on the Isle of Islay with its wonderful wildlife, fishing,

shooting and good whisky. A succession of top politicians got asked to spend some of their holidays on Islay. Afterwards they would receive a totally unexpected gift — its welcome slightly depleted by the accompanying envelope. In order to make a point about excise duty, Morrison would send out a generous-sounding present of his favourite 21-year-old malt whisky from the island — and the envelope, from the Customs and Excise, would contain the bill for tax, about 70 per cent.

John Glanville Morrison was born at the family's then home in Belgravia. His father was Hugh Morrison (later MP for Salisbury) and his mother the former Lady Mary Leveson Gower. He was educated at Eton and played in the rugby XV and rowed for his house. From there he went to Cambridge, continuing his sporting interests, playing polo for the university. A grandson asked him years later: "Grandpa, did you take a degree at Cambridge?" Pause. "No, I never intended to be a schoolmaster."

Soon after coming down from university he settled into farming the Fonthill estate. At 22 he married the Hon Margaret Smith, daughter of Lord Hambleden. It was then he developed his pattern of country life, and at the very early age of 32 was High Sheriff of Wiltshire.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 the Royal Wiltshire Regiment, still horsed, and in which he was a captain, was ordered to embark for the Middle East. In readiness for Syria and Palestine they became part of the Cavalry Regiment. Margadale and his groom, who accompanied him, were seen as the best mounted men of the regiment. They had taken to the Middle East the two best horses from the Fonthill stables.

At home his wife continued her interest in local councils, young people's clubs — and, in the early part of the war, foxhunting. On the day after war was declared she was photographed as she rode to the meet of the hounds side-saddle, formal, dark riding habit and top silk hat, saluting a tank from Tidworth when the two met on the Fonthill estate.

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previously. At the local Morrison Hall, built by another ancestor, his candidacy was agreed by acclamation. During the war there was a truce on party political campaigning. The party that held the seat previously was given a clear run unopposed by the other parties. But Morrison had two independent opponents.

Churchill's reason for wanting Morrison in the House was to have a fighting soldier fresh from the most active front at the time. The Government was under severe pressure both from the press and the public who felt that there should be more speedy efforts to win the war on the ground. In this context Margadale's maiden speech must have badly disappointed Churchill.

Breaking the convention that maiden speeches should be *uncontroversial*, the young, uniformed MP said that he did not wish to "tear up bits" of the latest White Paper on service conditions and then proceeded to do just that. Fighting soldiers conscripted from civilian jobs were on an out-of-date pay scale, making "no account of inflation". Often they could not afford a drink, a cigarette, or a bit of leave as they struggled to have everything go to their families at home. It was probably the most powerful speech he ever made.

After the war he successfully defended his two main interests — being MP for Salisbury and Master of the South and West Wilts Foxhounds, a post which he held for 34 years. *Mondays* was a particular success with both interests in danger of conflicting. A chauffeur would be detailed to locate him hunting by 2pm, rush him to the nearest train for London, leaving his horse to be taken to the stables by a groom.

In London he would change out of hunting clothes and top boots at his Knightsbridge flat and then drive to the Commons in what he called "the London car". This was a pre-Mini, very small, and it could be quickly driven through traffic. His departure never ceased to provide amusement for the other flat-dwellers at Kingston House, Knightsbridge, as he deftly lowered his great height and bulk into the car and sped away.

He was the first of the Morrisons to become involved in racing, founding the Fonthill Stud. He had success in his first race when Fellermead won a maiden at Newbury. His best horse bred at Fonthill was the Spree, second in both the fillies' Classics.

It was as a senior steward of the Jockey Club that he gave most to racing. Before beginning his term of office he visited all 40 flat courses and racing days — unannounced. Starting at the cheap silver ring he would talk to punters and bookies, making his way through the enclosure until he arrived mid-afternoon in the Stewards' Box. By then he had noted everything worth telling the Jockey Club back in London. Change that was overdue happened in time. Small courses could no longer be treated as private fiefdoms.

Many owners of the great country estates sold or leased out their family seats after the Second World War. Others made deals with the National Trust, content to live out their days in a suite of rooms in a wing of the mansion, or move to the farm manager's or head gardener's house.

It was a couple of decades before the Morrison family made changes, and then, for reasons of convenience. In 1972 the large house at Fonthill, beloved by the Victorians, was pulled down. Lady Margadale took the lead in saying it was no longer practical. A modern Georgian-style house, using much of the stone of the old house, replaced it after the usual kerfuffle. The Department of the Environment encouraged by amenity societies, prepared a preservation order. They put it on the wrong house on the estate (some six houses on the estate carry the prefix Fonthill).

As confusion reigned the old house built by Hugh Morrison at the turn of the century was reduced to ruins. Questioned about the episode at the time Margadale said: "I can't help it if a government department gets the wrong house."

Margadale was Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire for 14 years, until reaching the age limit of 75. At different times he was Honorary Colonel of the Royal Yeomanry Regiment, chairman of the British Field Sports Society, president of Smithfield, and president of the Royal Bath and West Agricultural Society.

His peerage, as Lord Margadale, came in Sir Alec Douglas-Hamilton's Dissolution Honours List and is hereditary. The eldest son, James Morrison, now inherits the barony. He and his brother, Sir Charles Morrison, and his sister, Mary Morrison, a Lady of the Bedchamber to the Queen, survive their father, his youngest son, Sir Peter Morrison, having died in July last year.

LAURENCE MARKS

Laurence Marks,
journalist, died of cancer
on May 24 aged 67. He
was born in East
Finchley, north London,
on January 26, 1929.

LAURENCE MARKS was
one of Fleet Street's unsung
heroes. He was employed by
several newspapers but spent

most of his career on *The Observer*, for which he worked from 1968 to 1994. He was a classic all-rounder, who could turn his hand to almost anything — and frequently did when an urgent story broke close to deadline.

He loved writing about the arts, particularly architecture, but the form for which he will

be best remembered by his fellow-journalists is the profile. The *Observer* profile — in the 1980s complete with a Marc caricature — was long considered to be one of the paper's most distinguished features (it was David Astor, after all, who introduced the genre into British journalism in the 1940s). And it was

Laurence Marks who wrote the highest proportion of them during his long career with the paper.

The format suited him perfectly, not least because it carried no byline. Marks abhorred the limelight, operating in a world of his own which remained a mystery to most of his colleagues. He

combined scholarliness with great energy and efficiency; it was impossible to tell whether he had turned round the profile in two weeks or two days (frequently the latter), so polished and informative was the final result.

Marks was a man of paradoxes — a loner who appeared remote and forbidding, yet was keenly interested in people, as was apparent from his profiles. He was intensely bookish, and liked nothing better than reading up on a subject in the British Library; but his interrogatory technique, as he peered over his half-moon spectacles with a quizzical half-smile, was as crisp and effective as a detective's and a model for any aspiring journalist. He was also a great stylist.

Profiling Sir Isaiah Berlin for his eightieth birthday in 1989, Marks wrote: "He is the embodiment of the Oxford spirit: dispassionate, eclectic, undogmatic, elegant in expression." The description could equally well have been applied to Marks an Oxford man, too, though one who would have shuddered to be mentioned in the same breath as one of his great heroes.

He was born into a north London Jewish family, the eldest of four children. (Although not religious, Marks retained a keen interest all his life in Judaism and the architecture of Jerusalem in the period of the British Mandate.) When his parents separated and his father, a small

businessman, left home, he became something of a father figure to his two younger siblings. He was evacuated to Devon during the war, returning to the capital to complete his secondary education at City of London School, and going on to Lincoln College, Oxford, where he read law. For his National Service, he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery.

After a brief stint in advertising, he decided that journalism was his real métier and joined the *Oxford Mail*. He moved on to the London *Evening Standard*, where he edited the Londoner's Diary, a fact which astonished his later colleagues, as anyone less interested in partygoing and the doings of smart society would have been hard to find. He then went to *The Sunday Times* but, typically, left over a matter of principle. The *Observer* was happy to snap him up and it was swiftly apparent that newspaper and writer were well matched. Initially he had a baptism of fire, being criticised along with his Editor, by the Committee of Privileges for publishing an advance leak from a parliamentary committee report on the chemical warfare establishment at Porton Down. Only, however, the Labour MP involved, Tam Dalyell, was formally reprimanded by the Speaker.

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businessman, left home, he became something of a father figure to his two younger siblings. He was evacuated to Devon during the war, returning to the capital to complete his secondary education at City of London School, and going on to Lincoln College, Oxford, where he read law. For his National Service, he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery.

After being reprimanded by the Speaker, he continued to do so, to much acclaim and respect. A list of the names and addresses of the committee's creditors was published in the *Evening Standard* with the offices of Price Waterhouse, the firm that had been engaged to audit the accounts, and the names were to be made available to the public.

By order of the Speaker, the names and addresses of the creditors were to be withheld, for protection at the House of Commons. The *Observer* was not to be swayed. It published the names on May 29, 1996, and claims that it was the first newspaper to do so.

Any creditor who has not received notice of the hearing may apply to the court for a writ of summons to appear. The court will hear the case on June 10, 1996, and claims that it will be the first newspaper to do so.

Although Marks wrote mainly about Britain, he was briefly the paper's Washington correspondent. On his way

home at the end of his tour in 1979, he stopped off in Guadeloupe to cover the G7 meeting there hosted by Giscard d'Estaing and picked up a virulent tropical disease, the after-effects of which blighted him for the rest of his life.

After being retired from *The Observer*, he continued to

write profiles for the *Independent on Sunday*, although painied that the newspaper's style dictated that they must bear his byline. He also contributed articles on architecture to *The Spectator*.

He never married and is survived by his two sisters and a brother.

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The children's tales as yet untold

On May 17 the classic Fleet Street disclaimer — "The Daily Mail makes no apology" — introduced a story that the paper called "among the most shocking you'll ever read". It wasn't, of course, but horrible enough to warrant a passing over: the details of the abduction, rape and murder of nine-year-old Daniel Handley.

Murder is an old story, but child sexual abuse is not. It is that rare commodity: new news. The discovery that vulnerable children have been sexually exploited by those entrusted with their care must rank as the greatest story never told.

Why have we been so blind? Knowing what we do now, for us to see on the television news the charming, half-timbered children's home in Wrexham is unbearable. You put yourself in the place of those adolescents being driven up the drive through spacious grounds, thinking, "Everything's going to be all right now." You then think of what lay waiting within — with punishment for trying to run away.

The horror makes you want to rewrite Dickens — if not the whole of 19th-century children's literature. Dickens convinced us that children in care suffered no worse than the refusal of a second bowl of porridge. The orphaned Jane Eyre suffered no more than a book thrown at her by her bullying male cousin. And Huckleberry Finn floated down the Mississippi unmoled by the two old rogues into whose clutches he had fallen.

The pretying up of what can happen to children has been a massive, collective act of cultural censorship. Walk through the National Gallery or read the world's great books and you find depictions of the rape of women, but none of children. The scale of the taboo is all the more staggering when you realise that the use of children for sexual gratification has been going on since the dawn of time.

The greatest censor of all may have been the man who discovered childhood sexuality, Sigmund Freud. The most damning charge laid against him today is that he doctored the truth: confronted with too many tales of fathers侵犯 daughters' bedrooms, he dismissed them as female fantasies.

Don't think the censorship is over. Next month the Secretary of State for Wales, William Hague, will sit down with the five new authorities which have replaced Clwyd County Council to try to publish the long-secret report on 21 years of child abuse at children's homes in north Wales. The report, commissioned by Clwyd, is said to expose one of the worst abuse scandals of the century, but it has been withheld from the public. All we know is that at least four people are already in jail for sexual assaults. It is not just prudishness that keeps the

ugly news out of the papers. Convictions of the guilty are swiftly followed by insurance claims against their employers. Staffordshire County Council's insurers have paid out £1.7 million in compensation to the victims of some of its social workers' unusual punishments.

And, of course, accusations may not be true. False Memory Syndrome is a sorry by-product of the awakening to the fact of adult-child sexual relations. People recover memories of what never happened, just as another by-product — overzealous social workers detect non-existent symptoms and misinterpret hearsay.

These secondary consequences must be resisted. But they must not disguise the ugly truth upon which the late 20th century has belatedly stumbled: that a range of evils from paedophilia to incest is far more common than was ever realised.

When did the unspeakable become print-able? Possibly the publication of *Lolita* in 1958 put the description of paedophilia before the public and Nabokov succeeded where Freud failed in daring to announce that children have sexual desires too.

"It was she who seduced me," says the astonished paedophile Humbert Humbert. The Moors murderers in the early 1960s certainly forced the issue before readers' eyes. And when Esther Rantzen launched her ChildLine in 1986, she found it swamped by calls from children in distress.

No one can argue that this new crime is cooked up by the media to sell newspapers. Very few people like to read about it, but the stories are not going to go away. The spread of the Internet with its uncontrollable possibilities for adults to get at children, even if only electronically, raises the problem to a new dimension.

Some good must come out of this exposure. We can now see that the rise of divorce brings new dangers into the home. Young girls are far more at risk from the sexual attentions of mother's boyfriend than from their own father. We can now witness the sexual content of those terrible Safeway commercials showing tiny children courting like adults. And new stories like that of the girl of nine having an abortion should put an end to pious pleas for a return to innocence.

There never was any innocence. Childhood, it has been observed, was a 19th-century invention. Children have always been prisoners of their parents or of whomever looks after them. The recognition that this vulnerability includes access to their private regions makes for appalling reading. But it is also children's best hope of protection at last.

BRENDA MADDOX

The power behind the throne

THE talk at the Mirror Group's Canary Wharf headquarters as chief executive David Montgomery appears to be taking a less hands-on role is focusing on the seemingly unstoppable comeback of Kelvin MacKenzie, head of the company's cable channel Live TV!

Not only has he installed his protege Piers Morgan in the Editor's chair at *The Daily Mirror*, but as the most voicerous member of the jury for the prestigious Newspaper Industry Awards in March, the former *Sun* Editor is also credited with helping former People Editor Bridget Rose to win the prizes for National Newspaper of the Year and Sunday Newspaper of the Year.

It is not quite clear yet what he makes of *The Independent's* new Editor Andrew Marr, although he has been heard to mutter something about the paper becoming "a bit studenty". MacKenzie is

Amanda Root and Ciaran Hinds were deemed too demure to attract US audiences

goodbye. Shortly afterwards the helpless manager made an abrupt exit from the company — at around 6pm on a Friday.

• They may be commemorating 50 years of *Woman's Hour* and they may be celebrating "powerful women past and present in their specially produced pack of *Woman's Hour* playing cards, but noticeably absent from the deck is *Liz Forgan*, the former managing director of Network Radio BBC. She has been overlooked in favour of an eclectic, and some would say random, mixture of women. "We didn't want it to be too internal," a Radio 4 spokeswoman said.

Nonetheless, the matter of choice seems to have remained very internal indeed. *One of the Aces* — the "best women ever" — is *Billie Holiday* in strange company with Queen Elizabeth I, Simone de Beauvoir and Jane Austen.

• Sally Feldman, one of the programme's editors, thinks Billie is absolutely marvelous," the spokeswoman says. "So we had to put her in." Quite.

Save our men

CHRIS TARRANT, the Capital Radio breakfast presenter and TV host, has fallen foul of the UK Men's Movement, self-styled protectors of the nation's males. The television show *Man O'Man*, which Mr Tarrant presents, has been denounced by the organisation as "appallingly sexist and demeaning", not to mention "shambolic".

"This so-called humour," complains Lawrie Jackson, secretary of the UKMM, in a

letter to the TV network heads and the Broadcasting Standards Council. "Clearly not considering them attractive enough for the American public, the State-side version has dropped the demure Hinds and Root and replaced them with two little-known and rather more glamorous models posing in provocative fashion as Austin's hero and heroine."

Richard Hearnay, producer of *Man O'Man*, said he had sent a stern letter to the group. "There are an awful lot of men left in this country who think women should stay in the kitchen," he said. "Both Chris and I think it's good clean family entertainment..."

Moving fronts

IS GMTV's chirrup weather girl Sally Meen to be lured away from her brobiliabilities slot on the breakfast channel? Headhunters for the 24-hour



Man in trouble: Tarrant

Weather Channel on cable, which launches on Friday, have approached her to help to front the station. However, the cable company says it's her geography degree as much as her blonde appeal that has lured them in her direction. "We are looking for people with a serious meteorological background," a spokeswoman said earnestly. *Bien sur.*

Owen goal

MORE rumblings of discontent at the beleaguered *Sunday Business*, where some staff were surprised on Sunday to read their Editor's personal endorsement of the socialist businessman Owen Oyston, who was convicted of rape last week.

Oyston, incidentally, helped the paper out in its early days with a life-saving "loan" of £200,000. The homily by the Editor, Tom Rubython — which concluded with the rousing words "... there is one thing I know for sure, Owen Oyston is not and has never been a rapist, whatever a jury might have said" — was prepared in secrecy. Senior journalists were told that the pages were to be filled by a "marketing promotion" and so knew nothing about it until the paper hit the news-stands.

Many hardened hacks, who have been prepared to soldier on at the paper despite the fact that they have not received all of their May salaries, are now considering resigning in protest.

• Assistant editor of *The Spectator* Petronella Wyatt denies categorically that her new dining club, *Women Against Journalism*, has been formed in reaction to the crusading feminist organisation *Women In Journalism*, despite the similarity in the two groups' names.

"It is a complete coincidence that the names are so much alike," she insists. Of course it is.

Wyatt, who founded *WAI* with Spectator deputy editor Anne McElroy, admits however that the new organisation has been created as a reaction against the over-easiness and political correctness of "some women's groups" in recent years.

J Sainsbury now that it's being trounced by Tesco. Marketers at a recent conference were gobsmacked, for example, to hear Sainsbury's deputy chairman Tom Vyner talk of the need for more honest communications between manufacturers and retailers — not things Sainsbury's feared buyers are renowned for.

But old attitudes die hard. Mr Vyner peppered his contribution with references to Wellington and Napoleon, while Tesco's Graham Booth joked about elephants — a contrast Mr Booth pointed out.

ALAN MITCHELL

Heaven is...pitching for the Vatican

imagery of the Roman Catholic Church to market its message — and raise a little cash.

Jewel in the crown is a Vatican Library licensing and merchandising programme that will put its repertoire of paintings, frescoes and buildings on household objects and clothes around the globe.

Father Leonard Boyle, the library director, denies rumours that Gucci and Armani will soon be sporting Vatican motifs at heavenly margins.

But, he admits, a range of Vatican-inspired costume jewellery has already been "particularly successful".

And that's only the beginning, as UK design agencies have discovered. They've been receiving phone calls from an organisation called the Committee for the Jubilee inviting them to pitch for a project called AD 2000. The brief, to conjure up a logo which inspires the world's populace to celebrate the true meaning

of the millennium. Agencies, it appears, will be expected to do the work for free as, it is subtly hinted, their rewards will come in the next life.

JUST what is going on at BT? A year ago it appointed Mike Biden, a man from Mars (the corporation, not the planet), to dazzle us with the joys of modern telecoms.

By January Mr Biden was out and BT was asserting that it's vast personal communica-

tions division no longer needs a marketing director. Charlotte Pinder, a marketing hotshot brought out from Pepsi, walked out on May 7.

Now BT has appointed a new marketing director: Mike Wagner. Talk of expanding the telecoms market has evaporated, and chunks of BT's £180 million residential marketing budget have been switched from advertising into direct mail.

Notwithstanding Mr Wag-

ner's appointment, insiders believe BT's marketing is effectively controlled by the Canadian direct marketing consultant Ed Carter.

Where such shenanigans leave BT's "It's Good to Talk" ad campaign is anybody's guess. But most BT watchers are speechless.

THE grocery industry is full of rumours of a cultural sea-change said to be sweeping through the once-arrogant



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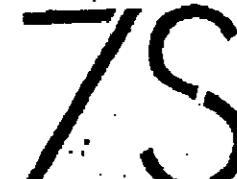
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Paper tigers... office tyrants?

Is the new generation of hire-and-fire editors what our newspapers need in the Nineties?

THE case of Graham Jones, the 44-year-old assistant editor (news) of the *Sunday Express*, who was "tossed aside like a toffee wrapper", could become a precedent for Fleet Street. Although the industrial tribunal found that there had been no sexual discrimination, the chairman, Ian Lamb, condemned the hire-and-fire policy of Express Group Newspapers. They had already admitted unfair dismissal, and will have to pay compensation.

Mr Lamb told the Editor of the *Sunday Express*, Sue Douglas, that she had been "hiring and firing with complete disregard for the laws or good employment practice... This dismissal had no rhyme or reason except the personal preference of Ms Douglas... It was utterly irrational and whimsical. She considered that Mr Jones was just not a person she wanted to work with." If Sue Douglas were the only editor to behave in this way, that would merely be another black mark for the *Sunday Express*, a newspaper whose catastrophic fall in circulation Ms Douglas is trying to halt. Yet it is notorious that Fleet Street is now divided into two schools. There are editors who manage their staff reasonably and consistently, do not fire without reason and consideration, and try to build their professional teams with care over time. And there are the other editors whose firings are indeed "irrational and whimsical".

There is, I think, an important distinction to be made between two types of journalist. A minority of journalists are in the position of actors on stage; we perform the play as the public sees it. The readers of the newspapers come to know our names, and either like or dislike what we write. Such named journalists have their advantages. Because we are known as individuals, we are also known to the editors of other newspapers, and can change papers relatively easily. If we have a following among readers, that tends to be reflected in our pay. We have good access to the people we write about because they have read our pieces.

These advantages are naturally compensated for by our being essentially the tubes of colour in the editor's paintbox. He has to balance his paper; he has to hold his readers' attention; he has to keep his paper looking fresh. One of



Max Hastings, of the *Evening Standard*, and Sue Douglas, of the *Sunday Express*, both enjoy reputations as hire-and-fire editors. Ms Douglas's action was called "whimsical".

the ways in which he will achieve this is by bringing in new named writers, with new opinions and ideas. And if new writers are brought in, old writers must sometimes go out. An editor who changes his named writers may well expect them to pop up elsewhere, but he must be free to make the choice. If one follows the career of a first-class columnist like Auberon Waugh, one can see that both he and the newspapers which have employed him have benefited from this merry-go-round.

An editor who never changed anybody would therefore not be doing his job, and his readers would soon notice. But the named writers, the actors who appear on stage, are a minority of journalists, though they may be doing very important jobs on the newspaper. They are professionals, and one of their skills is to respond to the policies of the editor, who has the ultimate responsibility for judging what his readers will want.

Mr Jones had worked on the



WILLIAM REES-MOGG

he does not decide it. The editor does that. If Ms Douglas wanted headless bodies, it would have been Mr Jones's job to produce them; if she wanted Tory MPs in shock horror sleaze, it would have been Mr Jones's job to exhort some of that; if she wanted to lead the paper on a quarter point fall in the yen/dollar exchange rate, that would have become Mr Jones's business as well. But she had not waited to see whether he could produce the sort of news stories she wanted; she fired him partly because he had been around under her predecessor, and had then provided the news stories which her predecessor had asked for. That was "irrational and whimsical".

The broad principle must be that journalists should be judged on their professional performance. The editor will in the end be judged by the success of the newspaper — it is a market test, the named writer will be judged by the appeal to the reader of his or her writing: the news editor, the sub-editor or the anonymous reporter should be

judged on the ability to respond to the needs of the newspaper as the editor perceives them. In my own experience on *The Times*, good professionals are entirely willing, and pleased, to take coherent direction from their editor, like the conductor of an orchestra, to set the tempo. If there are too many staff, everyone will be working at reduced pressure, and the tempo will slacken. If one is overmanned, and the staff has

to be trimmed down, but that

is a different question. Over-manning is not only commercially wasteful, but is bad for the editorial process as such. There is a certain tempo which runs through a newspaper; one of the functions of the editor, like the conductor of an orchestra, is to set the tempo. If there are too many staff, everyone will be working at reduced pressure, and the tempo will slacken.

Sometimes newspapers are

broadsheets at present, the most highly manned for its function is the *Financial Times*, while *The Independent* has been through savage staff cuts, made inevitable because of heavy losses of money. The tempo of *The Independent* is much quicker than that of the *Financial Times*, and it leaves the impression of a more tautly edited newspaper.

The editorial and commercial benefits of a stable policy

Mad cows and Englishmen hit out in the Mail and Sun

We won the war in 1945, we won the World Cup in 1966 but we still hate the Germans, don't we? Any German in Britain last week could have been forgiven for thinking so.

When John Major summoned Britain to war with Europe, the Tory tabloids instantly donned battle gear

and went over the top — in both senses of the phrase.

"Major shows bulls at last" roared *The Sun*. "Major goes to war at last" said the *Daily Mail*. (Note that impatience "at last" in both)

"Major speaks for Britain" said the *Daily Express*, showing the Prime Minister against the Union Jack.

The Sun occupied its usual position in the leading tank. Against a picture of Winston Churchill, Britain's biggest-selling daily launched a buy-British crusade urging Britain to "S-hun" German food and drink.

Joining forces with the Asda supermarket chain, it offered readers two free British beefburgers as well as an "I'm Backing British Beef" car-sticker. It also proposed 20 ways to hit back at the Europeans, including a boycott of German beer, Mercedes cars and Hugo Boss clothes.

Just behind, in the second tank, was the increasingly belligerent *Daily Express*,

which offered a guide how to say "no" — a vital word for Euro-sceptics — in nine languages.

There were unusually warm endorsements for Mr Major from *The Daily Mail* and *The Daily Telegraph*, although both were dubious about the strength of his resolution. "If after one bout of state-managed defiance at Florence his boldness shrivels with punctured bravado, he will bear the blame and the shame," said the *Mail*. According to *The Daily Telegraph*: "If this gamble pays off, the electoral rewards will be great. If it fails, the end is night... this has become a battle that [the Government] cannot afford to lose."

Under its new Editor, Andrew Marr, *The Independent* devoted most of its front page to a commentary under the sardonic headline, "Oh what a lovely war!" Two telling arguments were put by John Lichfield. If the BSE epidemic had occurred in France, a child could have composed the likely *Daily Mail* splash: "EU orders Britons to eat killer meat."

Many on the Continent, moreover, believe that eating British — or any — beef might (just might) rot the brains of their children.

"And who originally said so?" The British Government and the British press.

Yet quite the most scathing, damning and magisterial indictment of Mr Major appeared neither in a tabloid nor a paper of the Left, but in *The Times*, where William Rees-Mogg was in Swiftian mode.

Europe was not going to lift the beef ban until it was known whether or not

BSE was infectious, he argued.

Nor, if the situation was reversed, would Britain import European beef. Mr Major was exposing himself to ridicule by deploying Britain's ultimate negotiating weapon to fight for those three great issues of state: Tallow, Gelatin and Semen.

If the *Daily Mail* and *Daily Express* thought this spasm of hysteria showed that the Government had recovered the will to govern, they were wrong. "The half-empty chair is the symbol of a half-dead Government."

When editors speak

for England they raise the question whether they lead or follow public opinion. According to a poll in *The Observer*, William Rees-Mogg may be closer to the nation's pulse. Even after all the tabloid propaganda, it showed that 51 per cent of the British blame Mr Major's Government for the BSE crisis rather than the EU.

Theo Koll, who represents

Germany's ZDV television

station in London and is a lifelong Anglophile, was a sadder man last week. He finds that Britain's constant hostility to Germany is beginning to get under his skin. What worries him most is that the anti-European, anti-German instincts unleashed by Mr Major — and so enthusiastically endorsed by most of the tabloids — will poison the minds of yet another generation of Britons.

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TV LISTINGS

Preview: Watch Stonehenge being built. *Secrets of Lost Empires* (BBC2, 9pm) **Review:** Lynne Truss on the travails of the cash-strapped aristocracy Page 47

OPINION

A voice for Ulster

The Unionist embrace of voices such as Conor Cruise O'Brien's — tolerant, intelligent and Catholic — will make it more likely that Ulster will win the stability that the Province needs Page 19

Turkey in trouble

Only by setting aside their personal animosities can Turkey's leaders give the country the responsible leadership it deserves Page 19

A sign of peace

Usually the running-down of stocks is seen as a sign of recession. In the Ministry of Defence it is a sign of peace Page 19

SIMON JENKINS

Hostilities began with a French customs officer tipping apart a British beef lorry without legal authority. That is what sent British forces into Belgium. They have gone as fools. They had better come back as heroes Page 18

GEORGE WALDEN

I shall continue to vote with the Government because I believe that most of what it is doing is right, and because I am not attracted to Labour or the Liberal Democrats. But for me, policy towards Europe is a defining issue. The Tories have weapons enough without Union Jacks made in Taiwan Page 18

ALAN COREN

They pointed out that Euro 96 was just a week away and Wembley Stadium only half a mile from where we stood. Which meant that for the three sporting weeks between June 8 and June 30, their street would be filled with countless sportsmen keen to bung bricks through their windows Page 18

FASHION

Casual sensuality: Whether you call them chinos, khakis or Dockers, cotton trousers are now taking over from jeans as the relaxing wear Page 16

FEATURES

Petty tyrants: William Rees-Mogg thinks some newspaper editors have adopted a macho or virago attitude to hiring and firing journalists Page 23

HOMES

THE PAPER

The next move is up to the IRA. Mr Adams has worked hard to bring peace to his homeland but he cannot take the next step without the help of the IRA. There has not been a better opportunity in a generation to settle the Irish conflict New York Times

JUDGES AND SENTENCING

Major to Europe in

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ARTS 33-35

Grown-ups in mob caps: the art of Kate Greenaway



HOMES 38

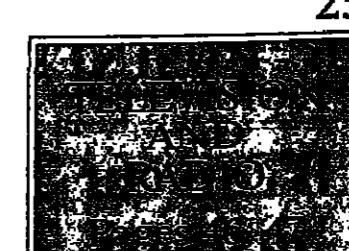
Fancy a short break in a Lutyens house?

مدة من العمل



SPORT 42-48

Michael Jordan names his price: \$18m a season



THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MAY 29 1996

Sale of 3i stake fuels talk of NatWest buyback

BY PATRICIA TEAHAN

BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SPECULATION that NatWest is planning a £1 billion share buyback intensified yesterday when it revealed it was considering the £460 million sale of its shares in 3i, the venture capital firm.

The news sent 3i shares down 15p to 452p last night, while NatWest's shares closed 2p higher at 616p. Analysts said a share buyback of between £800 million and £1 billion, around the time of NatWest's interim results in July, was now a distinct possibility. There was also speculation yesterday that the bank might be consider-

ing using the funds to help to finance an acquisition, possibly of a life company.

Analysts said the bank is likely to sell at a small discount to the current share price. If it sells its entire 17.7 per cent stake at around 440p, valuing the shares at £460 million, it will make a profit of about £220 million over the value at which the shares are held in the balance sheet.

The shares are likely to be sold in the middle of next month, after the publication of 3i's results for the year to March 31 next week. The sale will be through placing with institutional investors, although private investors will be able to apply for shares through financial intermediaries.

NatWest Securities and de Zoete & Bevan have been appointed brokers to the sale, with NatWest Securities coordinating the bookbuilding process.

A NatWest spokesman said the 3i shareholding "has been a very successful investment for us, but it is not a strategic holding. We have our own successful venture capital operation." He said the bank felt that this was the right time to realise the value of the stake.

He added that the bank's focus had altered after the decision last year to sell its US subsidiary, NatWest Bancorp. The \$3.5 billion sale to Fleet Financial was completed at the beginning of the month. NatWest

has also announced plans to acquire Gartmore, the fund manager, for £472 million.

The spokesman said Derek Wanless, NatWest's chief executive, had indicated that the bank was now concentrating on developing its UK financial services business, building NatWest Markets internationally and expanding its private banking arm. Given this, he said, the bank made "a free standing decision" to sell the 3i stake, given the value it can now extract from the holding.

3i said that it welcomed the proposed sale, "which would increase the liquidity of the company's equity and would provide a

good opportunity to attract new shareholders". The company was founded more than 50 years ago by the banks. The banks sold just under 50 per cent of their shares when 3i was floated in July 1994 at 272p a share.

NatWest's decision to sell follows the sale of 3i shareholdings last June by the Bank of England, Midland, Barclays and Lloyds and a further sale by Midland in January.

If it sells its entire stake, NatWest Markets will continue to have an interest in 6.8 per cent of shares, held by its fund management operations.

John Melbourn, deputy chief executive of NatWest, is expected to retain his seat on the 3i's board.

BUSINESS TODAY

	FTSE 100	FTSE All share	Nikkei	Dow Jones	S&P Composites
Yield	4.02%	1883.89	21944.53	(+4.02)	
Market					
Dow Jones	5722.22	(-10.64)			
S&P Composites	673.62	(-4.89)			
Interest rates					
Federal Funds	5.0%	(5.0%)			
Long Bond	8.9%	(8.9%)			
Yield	6.65%	(6.64%)			
Exchanges					
3-month Interbank	6.1%	(6.1%)			
Libor 3 month	106.1%	(106.1%)			
STERLING					
New York	1.5120	(1.5120)			
London	1.5129	(1.5129)			
S	2.3415	(2.3310)			
DM	7.3571	(7.3535)			
FF	1.5271	(1.5195)			
JPY	164.26	(162.85)			
Yen	85.1	(84.6)			
E Index					
US\$ £					
£	1.5475*	(1.5432)			
DM	5.2355*	(5.2200)			
FF	1.2357*	(1.2290)			
Yen	97.9	(97.2)			
Index					
Tokyo close Yen	106.20				
London close	\$392.15	(\$390.65)			

	London	DM	FF	Yen	Index
London	1.5475*	(1.5432)			
DM	5.2355*	(5.2200)			
FF	1.2357*	(1.2290)			
Yen	97.9	(97.2)			
Index					
Tokyo close Yen	106.20				
London close	\$392.15	(\$390.65)			

* denotes midday trading price

Threat to Facia shop sales

By JASON NISET

LANDLORDS of up to 250 shops sold by Sears to Facia, Stephen Hinchliffe's troubled retailer, are opposing the transfer of the leases. This means that if Facia runs into financial difficulties all the leases, with an annual rent in the region of £20 million, will end up back with Sears.

None of the 39 shops bought by Facia from Sears in two deals, one last August, the other in February, have actually been transferred to Facia.

Sears said that it will be retaining around 130 freehold or long leasehold shops to sell separately, but would pass the leases of the other 250 to Facia by selling a Sears trading company called Saxonex Ltd.

This deal has yet gone through, and a number of landlords have said they will oppose any such move.

"We have not consented to any assignments to Facia," said Stuart Beevor, director of property at Legal & General, which owns some of the stores. "We have not seen any trading accounts for Facia and until we see them we will not consent to any transfers."

Facia has yet to produce accounts, which were due last November, and has been given until July 1 to file them or face prosecution. Separately, Mr Hinchliffe and a fellow director are facing action to disqualify them as directors.

Sears has now restructured the deal so that it can force through the transfer even if landlords object. By selling Saxonex Ltd to Facia, the landlords will inherit Mr Hinchliffe as a tenant. Sears says it hopes to complete the deal by July 31.

British Energy's liabilities criticised

By PAUL DURMAN

THE start of the £4 million advertising campaign to sell shares in British Energy, the company formed around the UK's newest nuclear power stations, was yesterday greeted by accusations that the Government has grossly underestimated the firm's long-term liabilities.

Environmental groups joined with the Labour Party to criticise the British Energy sale, the last big privatisation before the election, as a bad deal for the taxpayer. The company's estimated stock market value, of between £1.5 billion and £2.1 billion, is much less than the £3 billion cost of building Sizewell B, its pressurised water reactor.

British Energy is putting £16 million a year into a fund to meet the costs of decommissioning power stations at the end of their generating lives. Dr Patrick Green, a senior energy campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said: "Taxpayers are going to end up with a huge bill to clean up the nuclear legacy."

In spite of the uncertainties over long-term costs and nervousness about nuclear safety, many in the City believe British Energy will prove a good bet for investors.

At least 30 per cent of the shares will be available to the public, with more being made available if demand is strong. As with Railtrack, private investors will receive a discount, of about 5 per cent, on the price paid by institutional investors.

The pathfinder prospectus will be published on June 10. Share dealings are expected to begin in mid-July.



Power play: Ian Russell, finance director of ScottishPower, left, and Ian Robinson, chief executive, yesterday

TURBULENT WATER

Source: DOWNTREND

1000	P
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Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Scotiabank

SOUTHERN WATER

Source: DOWNTREND

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Source: DOWNTREND

Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Scotiabank

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BT to cut business tariffs by £220m

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday launched its most ambitious effort to win back business customers by making across-the-board price cuts that will total £220 million a year.

The reductions will come into effect in July and are likely to be followed by similar cuts next year.

BT's goal is to increase its presence in the business market, where its share has fallen furthest. The company has fewer than half the customers in the City of London, the business market's richest prize.

The £220 million price reduction for business customers will take the total cuts this year to about £400 million, or about £100 million more than the level required by Ofcom, the regulator for the telecommunications industry.

Under the Ofcom price controls, BT must reduce its overall prices each year by the retail prices index, less 7.5 per cent. BT has gone beyond the minimum requirement in an effort to become more competitive in the business sector.

Reductions after mid-1997 will be set by Ofcom's new price cap, whose level is to be determined within a couple of weeks.

The next cap may be just as tight as the current one, but it is thought likely that it will cover a narrower range of services.

BT has argued that controls are needed only in areas where it has clear domination, such as residential line rentals.

The company added that the business tariffs will make existing discount packages about 10 per cent cheaper.



Peps up unit sales, the plastic containers company, lifted pre-tax profits to £6.9 million from £6.47 million in the year to March 31. The company, whose chief executive is Malcolm Macintyre (pictured, centre, with directors Nicholas Templeton-Ward, left, and Stephen Nobbs), has lifted the total dividend from 7p to 7.35p, with a 5.35p final

Dairy administration threatens 1,000 jobs

By OLIVER AUGUST

ONE thousand jobs came under threat yesterday at Cricket St Thomas Dairies in Somerset after the appointment of an administrator, while elsewhere in the dairy industry the former processing arm of the Milk Marketing Board is expected to announce flotation plans today.

Cricket St Thomas failed to achieve expected efficiency gains and was granted the appointment of administrators at the High Court on Sunday.

Its difficulties were compounded over the last two months as milk sales were depressed after the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) scare. The collapse of the milk export market led to a surplus that depressed prices in spite of the lack of scientific evidence linking milk to BSE.

Murdoch McKillop, a partner at Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm, and a joint administrator, said: "At this stage, it is far too early to indicate if the business will be sold or re-constructed but we are hopeful that we will be able to find a way forward. In the meantime, the dairy will be delivering milk to customers as usual."

The Somerset company has an annual turnover of £90 million and employs 400 people at its dairy and 600 at its 16 depots. It supplies milk

and cream products to supermarkets, retailers and on a doorstop delivery service.

Arthur Andersen said the decision to put the dairy into administration meant it would continue to trade as a going concern and provided a "realistic prospect of finding a solution to the current difficulties".

The administrator is currently conducting a detailed appraisal of trading and financial prospects.

Mr McKillop said the company had encountered a "serious cash-flow crisis" after plans to consolidate milk production at Cricket St Thomas had proved to be more complex than anticipated. "The

situation is complex and certain ongoing issues need to be resolved before we can determine the best way forward for the business," he added.

After unveiling the final results, Dairy Crest, the former processing arm of the now-defunct Milk Marketing Board, is set to seek a stock market listing today, despite the industry's problems with BSE.

Dairy Crest has been considering a flotation for several months and said in early December last year that it was still prepared for a full listing on the London Stock Exchange.

The company is expected to be valued at £200 million.

Date set for hearing on cash for BCCI creditors

LIQUIDATORS of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) will go to the High Court on July 15 to seek special arrangements for payments to British creditors, sources familiar with the collapsed bank said yesterday.

BCCI was shut down in 1991 with debts of more than \$12 billion. The liquidators, Deloitte & Touche, declined to comment yesterday, but sources said the need for a court hearing arose because of differ-

ences between British and Luxembourg accounting laws.

In Britain, when a firm goes into liquidation, creditors claim the difference between their loans and deposits. In Luxembourg, creditors must repay loans before they can claim for their deposits.

Deloitte & Touche has said the amount paid to creditors is subject to court decisions, but creditors are expected to get about 20 per cent of their claims by the summer.

Economy in US 'to grow by 2.5%'

US business analysts now say the national economy will expand by 2.5 per cent this year, up from a February estimate of 1.9 per cent with inflation held to 2.9 per cent.

The National Association of Business Economists (NABE) also predicted that the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, would hold interest rates steady over the next six months, despite high levels of employment and a strong second quarter performance.

The projection was underscored by reports on sales of existing homes and consumer confidence. Home sales unexpectedly rose 0.5 per cent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.22 million units, the second highest rate on record, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), while the Conference Board said its consumer confidence index continued to point to moderate economic growth and spending.

Tourist rates

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.00	1.84
Austria Sch	7.44	8.24
Belgium Fr	51.00	46.70
Canada \$	2.163	2.023
Cyprus Cyp £	0.753	0.698
Denmark Kr	9.59	8.79
Egypt £	7.75	7.50
France Fr	8.51	7.98
Germany Dm	2.49	2.28
Greece Dr	3.94	3.69
Hong Kong \$	12.55	11.59
Iceland Pr	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.93	4.70
Italy Lira	2.467	2.312
Japan Yen	177.80	161.90
Korea Wn	1.00	0.92
Netherlands Gld	2.765	2.525
New Zealand \$	2.36	2.14
Norway Kr	10.84	9.74
Portugal Esc	22.50	22.20
S Africa R	7.18	6.98
Spain Pta	201.90	186.50
Sweden Kr	10.95	10.15
Switzerland Fr	2.05	1.87
Turkey Lira	12.93	11.90
USA \$	1.810	1.490

Notes for small denominations bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Tax rush Peps up unit sales

By ROBERT MILLER

A LAST-MINUTE rush from investors out to beat the taxman through personal equity plans (Peps) helped unit trust groups to their second successive month of record sales of more than £1 billion.

The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Auitif) said yesterday that net retail unit trust sales of £1.1 billion in April, an increase of £72 million on the previous month, were boosted by the £369 million handed over in the first few days of last month prior to the end of the tax year on April 5. Sales of unit trust Peps in April were a shade over £1 billion, compared with £990 million in March and £572 million a year ago.

Funds under management among the 164 unit trust companies managing 1,646 funds rose to £127 billion in April, compared with £121 billion the previous month, while the number of unit-holder accounts at 7.3 million is up one million on a year ago.

Auitif said that for the ninth month in succession the UK gilt and fixed-interest sector was the most popular, attracting £209 million of which £20 million was invested in corporate-bond Peps.

Commenting on the latest sales figures, Philip Warland, director-general of Auitif, said: "There is little doubt that maturing Tessa money is being invested in better performing vehicles like unit trust Peps."

Net unit trust sales to City institutions were again on the low side, although they returned to a positive net inflow of £19 million against a £64 million outflow the previous month.

Gross unit trust sales of £800 million were "brought down substantially" by a £194 million withdrawal of funds from the Far East, excluding the Japan sector, according to Auitif.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

SFO investigates Titan Business Club

THE Serious Fraud Office has launched a preliminary investigation into an international money-making scheme that has attracted £20 million and has been described in Parliament by David Rendell, the Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, as "an intricate pyramid-selling scam". Files relating to the Titan Business Club and its associate companies in the UK have been passed to the SFO by the Department of Trade and Industry, which has started moves in the High Court to close it down.

The Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, has also offered assistance to the DTI after *The Times* revealed that Titan, which originates in Germany, planned to seek a listing on the Nasdaq stock market in the US. The Titan operation is estimated to have raised £20 million from about 8,000 people since last October.

Power firm targets AIM

INDEPENDENT ENERGY HOLDINGS, which generates and markets electricity direct to customers, is seeking admission to the Alternative Investment Market via a share placing. The placing price is 100p a share, raising £3.2 million and valuing the company at £13.1 million. Share dealings are expected to begin on Friday. Independent Energy has interests in a number of onshore gasfields in the UK from which it can supply gas-fired electricity generators.

Kloeckner group at risk
THE future of Kloeckner-Humboldt-Deutz, the German engineer, hangs in the balance after allegations that executives at a subsidiary concealed losses for years. KHD and Deutsche Bank, the company's largest investor and creditor, held weekend talks to find some way to offset the damage, which KHD said would total "hundreds of millions of marks". Trading in KHD shares was suspended before the Frankfurt stock exchange opened yesterday.

Whitbread invests £105m

WHITBREAD INNS has promised to create more than 2,700 new jobs this year by opening 70 family pubs at a cost of £105 million. A further 52 Brewers Fayre pubs will open, in addition to the 50 set up last year, to expand the chain to more than 330 outlets, while 20 local pubs will be converted into Family Inns. By the end of 1996, almost 25 per cent of Whitbread Inns' 1,650 outlets will have special catering facilities for families, the company said.

Queens Moat warns

STANLEY METCALFE, Queens Moat Houses chairman, gave warning that trading conditions in Continental Europe remain difficult. But he told the annual meeting that overall trading was "satisfactory" during the first part of the year, with the company raising its rooms performance in the UK. The company has made a series of cost efficiencies to help improve its performance in Germany, France and Belgium, where trading remains tough.

Fujitsu leaps 54%

STRONG microchip sales underpinned a 54.1 per cent rise in profit at Fujitsu, Japan's leading computer manufacturer, and the parent company of ICL of Britain, to £56.66 billion (¥980 million) in the year to March 31, on sales 15 per cent higher at ¥3.76 billion. However, declining prices are expected to put pressure on margins in the current year. The company has forecast a fall in profits to ¥140 billion for the year to March 1997 despite a rise in revenue to ¥4.36 billion.

Nissan back in black

NISSAN MOTOR Co, Japan's second-biggest carmaker, returned to profit last year, helped by brisk domestic sales and cost-cutting. In the year to March 31 profits were ¥32.43 billion (£19.7 million), compared with losses of ¥61.07 billion the previous year. The result exceeded Nissan's own prediction of a ¥25 billion profit. Like other major Japanese carmakers, including Toyota, the industry leader, Nissan has cut costs and streamlined its business.

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Water buyers should pay through the nose Sliding down a familiar track Barings victims still owed fair share

Some serious competition, please

WE HAVE all been here before, and an unedifying sight it was. The water sector is now set for the sort of undignified scramble that took half the regional electricity companies off the menu last year. To extend the parallel, we might now expect to look back in a year's time on ScottishPower's bid for Southern Water as an absolute steal.

After their abject failure to wrest any benefits to the consumer out of the electricity takeovers, it is up to the competition authorities, the industry regulator and even the Government, heaven help us, to start work now to prevent that from happening again.

Valuing utilities is notoriously difficult. But ScottishPower is offering 12 times last year's earnings for a company whose regulatory regime stretches only until the year 2000. In other words, it is assuming, disregarding interest costs and other variables, that Southern will be here in unchanged form until 2008. A Labour government and a tougher regulator could make the business worthless by the next review — or even sooner.

It is a truism that if someone wants to buy your business for more than it is worth they are either fools — in which case cash

the cheque immediately — or they have spotted extra value not immediately obvious. Assume the latter in the case of ScottishPower, which picked up Manweb last year for a price that with hindsight looks cheap. The Scots want access to 1.8 million Southern customers, to whom they can sell their own gas next year and electricity in 1998.

Southern Electric, by contrast, wants Southern Water to deny the Scots, or anyone else, easy access to that customer base so it can continue to sell to them. Both, therefore, have good reasons for bidding, and Water is wisely bidding its time before naming a preferred suitor. If they want the water company badly enough, they should be required to pay both shareholders and consumers to get it.

This elementary piece of common sense was missed during the last bidding war in utilities, when a Texan business lost out to North West Water for Norweb. Yet Ian Byatt, the water regulator, has already required that

bids within the industry compete in terms of what they offer the consumer as well as the shareholder. There seems no reason why that principle should not be extended further.

ScottishPower has tacitly started off this bidding round by offering 3 per cent off water bills from April 1998, as well as £75m cash. Other potential bidders, including Southern Electric, should be required to beat this, or see their offers stalled with the MMC. Some proper competition this time around, please.

Mathematics of the car boot sale

DÉJA vu, part two: the privatisation of British Energy, now so hard to distinguish from Railtrack that investors might just as well not bother with the prospectus but send in a copy of their earlier applications. Just as well that this is the last such sell-off, because they are acquiring a tiresome familiarity.

PENNINGTON



First, take the unsaleable, either the country's much-despised rail network or all those terrifying nukes. Start off at a low price, and then allow the City to ratchet it down to perhaps tenth what it is worth — the nuclear stations cost the taxpayer £13 billion to build and they will be worth, if lucky, £1.5 billion.

Then apply opposing pressure, by threatening to sell a large chunk of the business to the private investor. This could deprive the City institutions, especially those whose daring approach to share selection involves taking whatever is available in exactly the same

proportion as the next player. These may have to scramble about on the stock market to buy the shares they need.

Next, launch an advertising campaign that makes no reference to the business on offer but merely tips off the punters that a real sup is heading their way, courtesy of privatisation. Slip in a few extras, in case the deal does not turn out to be quite sweet enough. Await the first day scramble for deliberately underpriced equity, and congratulate yourself for another "success".

With British Energy, we are now up to the marketing launch and just ahead of the hand-out of the little extras. We will this time at least miss the special dividend arrangements that paid Railtrack investors an additional £69 million. Dividends are meant to reflect the risk involved in holding the shares, but in that case — the payment party covered the period before they were sold. Just what little bonuses will have to be provided this time instead?

Perhaps they will not be needed. The advisers are pointing to the "success" of Railtrack, now worth 18 per cent more than it was sold for, as an omen for the British Energy float. On that basis, another "success" looks guaranteed.

Charity begins at home for ING

WHEN ING bought most of Barings, the Dutch gained a fine business by having the courage

that eluded the likes of NatWest. They also bought enduring embarrassment. Most insiders were looked after — traders and managers have been paid many millions in bonuses geared to Nick Leeson's phantom profits.

Many outsiders, including the Baring Foundation and Bond and preference holders who thought the Bank of England's imprimatur meant something, were sold. Yet the false bonuses not been paid, individual bondholders and charities could have

been. Do not blame ING, which has already made some payments where it is in line and has made a gesture to the foundation. Beyond the principals within Barings, fault looms largest at the Bank of England. But ING faces the embarrassment.

One face of it is the Abbot of Downside, who brings a private gaze to the unruly house of Mammom on behalf of a charity. Father Charles has now taken his campaign to the Commons Treasury Select Committee.

Another ever-present, if silent, voice of disapproval is the collective one of traders in financial markets, especially in the Far East. For many of them, Barings has lost honour and failed to redeem itself. It is no longer the trading partner of preference, but only of last resort.

If ING is to realise the true potential of Barings, it needs to dispel the nasty taste lingering from the bank's fall and rise, by squaring at least individual and charitable bond and preference holders, if not all. That might most sensibly be done by giving them a claim on future income. And if staff were invited to divvy up half their false bonuses, and the names of volunteers and refugees were published, Barings might finally be rehabilitated.

Sun Life set to raise up to £600m from public offer

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

SUN Life, the UK life company wholly owned by Union des Assurances de Paris (UAP), the French insurer, expects to raise between £450 million and £600 million from its proposed initial public offer of shares next month.

The pathfinder prospectus was published yesterday and bookbuilding starts in Britain and America with a full prospectus on June 10. Robert Fernier is financial adviser and global co-ordinator.

UAP will retain a majority stake of between 51 and 75 per cent, depending on the re-

sponse from institutions. It will use the proceeds to pay off debts of £600 million from recent acquisitions. UAP will undertake in the underwriting agreement that it will not dispose of ordinary shares for one year from listing.

The new quoted company will be called Sun Life and Provincial Holdings (SLP). It will comprise three separate companies: Sun Life, the fourth largest UK life insurer, which sells mostly pensions and some investments; Provincial, which sells general insurance; and New Ireland, a life and pensions provider in the Republic of Ireland. The

outstanding debt is a result of the acquisition of 50 per cent of Sun Life from Transatlantic Holdings in 1995 and the purchase of Provincial in November 1994.

The offer next month will comprise an offer of ordinary shares to certain institutional investors in the UK, the US and the rest of the world and to the public in the UK, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man.

UAP will have the right to nominate directors to the board of SLP, and future development of international business. Michael Hart, chief executive of SLP, said SLP was a holding company, not a

Tempus, page 28

Blacks surges to £2m

BY SARAH BAGNALL

A STRONG retail performance helped Blacks Leisure, the sports goods and leisure retailer, to lift pre-tax profits from £10,000 to £2.1 million in the year to February 29.

The advance came on sales of £68.3 million, up from £65.6 million in the previous year. The news lifted the shares 17p to 147p. Profits were held back by a loss on the sale of Quasarsport and trading losses by discontinued businesses of £1.2 million.

The retail performance was helped by a 22 per cent leap in like-for-like sales at First Sport, which sells technical sports equipment. The Blacks Outdoor chain had a tough first nine months due to mild weather but trading recovered, almost offsetting earlier falls.

The final dividend was lifted from 1.5p to 1.75p, making an annual total of 2.5p (2.25p). The dividend, due October 4, is payable from earnings of 5.54p (L62p) a share.

Dentist braced to join market

BY SARAH BAGNALL

WHITECROSS, a chain of six dental practices, is to join the Alternative Investment Market (AIM), becoming the first dental business to obtain a stock market listing (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The company is raising £825,000 through a placing of 982,143 shares at 84p a share.

The offer — representing 9.2 per cent of the company — values Whitecross at £3.5 million. The funds will help finance the group's planned expansion in a market worth £1.5 billion a year.

Whitecross, which is loss-making, plans to open a further nine high street practices in London over the next five years. Each practice costs about £350,000 to establish and as a result Whitecross intends to raise a further £785,000 from a combination of bank debt and finance leases.

Whitecross lost £264,000 in the year to December 31 on

Smurfit has rethink on bonus pay

FROM EILEEN McCABE

DUBLIN

JEFFERSON SMURFIT, the paper and packaging group, has bowed to pressure from fund managers by changing a proposed bonus package for Michael Smurfit, chairman and chief executive, that could have been worth up to £15 million a year.

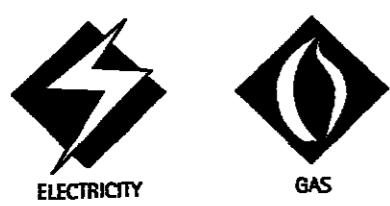
The original package, outlined in the annual report, proposed two sets of payments: an annual bonus of up to £12.5 million a year, based on the company's profit performance; and a long-term plan annual payment, based on share price and paid dividends. The combined payments were to be capped at a total of £15.2 million over the next four years. The company is expected to present a revised package at its annual meeting in Dublin tomorrow, with new performance-related elements and assurances that institutional guidelines will be considered in future.

ScottishPower

Offer for Southern Water

for further information please call

0800 468 602



ELECTRICITY GAS TELECOMS RETAIL WATER

The Directors of Scottish Power plc are the persons responsible for this advertisement. Those Directors confirm that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors of Scottish Power plc accept responsibility accordingly.

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PHILIP PANGALOS

Scottish Power bid puts utilities back in favour

THE spotlight returned to the utility sector as a fresh wave of takeover talk swept the sector after Scottish Power's £1.56 billion hostile bid for Southern Water set the market alight.

Southern Water shares surged 26p to 94p, with Scottish Power's offer worth 97.5p a share, while a full cash alternative is worth 93.75p a share. However, traders said that it may not be plain sailing for the Scottish power group, which last year succeeded in buying Marweb in a £1 billion deal. Southern Electric, Southern Water's utility neighbour, signalled it was also interested in making a bid, making the likelihood of a takeover battle very likely.

Southern Electric, however, is half the size of Scottish Power and analysts said it may need a rights issue of up to £500 million to help to fund such move. It also remains to be seen how National Power, which retains an 8 per cent stake in Southern, will react. Southern Electric retreated 26p to 72p, while National Power firmed 2.5p to 519.5p.

Other utility groups were pushed higher on the news as traders tried to predict other possible bid targets. Yorkshire Water surged 53p to 690p, while Thames added 17p to 564p, Wessex 24p to 332p, Severn Trent 19.5p to 561p and Anglian 32p to 572p. United Utilities jumped 25p to 581p on reports that tomorrow's final results may carry a bumper dividend.

The renewed bid activity provided a lift for the rest of the equity market, though dealers reported very thin volumes and a negative start on Wall Street dented sentiment in late London trading. The FTSE 100 index closed below its best ending up 8.1 points at 3,760.2. Second-liners, fuelled by the utilities, were more buoyant, with the FTSE 250 finishing 14.4 points higher at 4,504.4. Volume only reached 528 million shares.

British Telecom was a good market, adding 5.5p to 340p, as volume swelled to more than ten million shares on a day when it announced price cuts for its UK business customers. BT was boosted after Morgan Stanley, the American securities house, issued a buy recommendation on the stock and upgraded its profit forecast.

Paul Marsch, telecoms analyst at Morgan Stanley, said



Simon Bentley, left, of Blacks Leisure, with Teddy Sheringham

that the BT share price has been weak since the Cable & Wireless deal collapsed, while he feels that regulatory uncertainty may have been overcome.

He adds that the valuation appears cheap on a dividend growth and yield basis, while the balance sheet strength provides further support. Mr Marsch has raised his 1997 pre-tax profit forecast

It may be worth watching out for developments at Microvitec, the software and electronics group. The shares added 1p to 68p, backed up by a recent buy note from Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which suggested a short-term target price of 97p, as the group is exposed to rapid growth markets.

by £200 million to £3.12 billion. C&W firmed 6p to 45p.

Elsewhere, profit-takers saw Marks & Spencer dip 4.5p to 47.5p as the shares went ex-dividend. The retailing group has enjoyed a strong run since its recent annual results and many in the City still believe the shares are undervalued. Credit Lyonnais Laing was among the most buoyant, with the FTSE 250 finishing 14.4 points higher at 4,504.4. Volume only reached 528 million shares.

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American selling saw ICI dip 4p to 854p.

Shares in 3i, the venture capital group, were on offer and retreated 15p to 452p after National Westminster Bank disclosed that it is considering selling its 17.7 per cent stake,

with the 104.3 million shares worth £486 million. NatWest said any sale would take place

Airways for ten to 15 jumbo jets from Boeing would provide Rolls-Royce with an engine-supply deal worth £400 million. British Airways, up 1p to 565p, declined to comment other than to call the reports "speculative".

Bass, up 10p to 809p, was also a firm market after recent figures and a company visit by brokers. Elsewhere in the sector, Whitbread climbed 3p to 726p after NatWest restructured its buy recommendation on the stock.

Ladbroke rose 3.5p to 191p, on volume of 12 million shares, after news of the £100 million disposal of the 380-room Langham Hilton in London to Great Eagle Holdings, a Hong Kong-based investment group.

Blacks Leisure, the sports and leisurewear retailer where Simon Bentley is chairman and chief executive, advanced 13p to 143p after the company accompanied a 246 per cent surge in full-year pre-tax profits with an increased dividend.

British Biotech, whose volatile shares have had a strong run on the back of high hopes for its Marinastat cancer drug, added 48p to £28.25 as BZW issued put and call warrants on the stock.

Vendome units rose 15p to a record 629p on speculation that Richemont, its parent, is poised to buy the 30.3 per cent not already owned in the luxury goods group.

GILT-EDGED: It was a quiet day for gilts as dull overseas bond markets failed to provide any inspiration. They were slightly firmer at the start, but sellers appeared at higher levels and stocks drifted back during the session. Attention will switch to today's £3 billion gilt auction of 8 per cent Treasury 2021, which dealers expect to be reasonably covered.

The June series of the long gilt future ended unchanged at £1061.52, on thin volume of only 30,000 contracts traded.

Most conventional stocks also ended unchanged, while index-linked firmed by a couple of ticks.

NEW YORK: A stronger than expected report on home sales sparked weakness in bonds and encouraged investors to take profits on Wall Street, where by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 40.64 points lower at 5,722.22.

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FALLS:

FTSE Com 348p (+17p)

3i 452p (+15p)

Go-Ahead 325p (-10p)

Danks Bs Sys 775p (+15p)

Courtauld 432p (+10p)

Delphi 485p (+10p)

CLOSING PRICES PAGE 30

after 3i's preliminary results on June 6, adding that it would be primarily to institutional investors.

Bank of Scotland added 4p to 267p amid renewed talk of a takeover move by Royal Bank of Scotland, 3p softer at 523p. Shares in Rolls-Royce climbed 5p to 229p as volume reached 6.38 million shares in active trading on reports that an upcoming order by British

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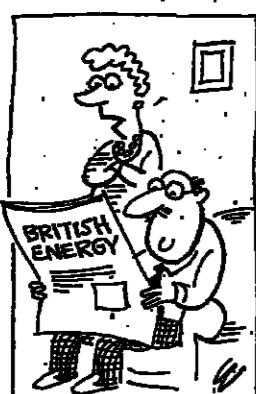
Blacks Leisure, the sports and leisure

THE
TIMESLandlord's
good fortune

SHARING a paddock with the chief executive of Asda clearly has its plus points. Archie Norman, who rents his farmhouse from Charles Dent, managing director of Timothy Taylors in Yorkshire, has agreed to stock his supermarket shelves with his landlord's finest ale. Within the first week of the brew going on sale, Timothy Taylor's Landlord, brewed in Keighley, was sold out in 50 Asda superstores across the North. Apparently, the name of the ale has nothing to do with Norman's neighbour — it was christened in 1953.

Squeezed out

NEIL MARSHALL, long-time voice of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, is out of the spotlight after this week's shake-up. After 18 years with the organisation, most recently as director of public policy, Marshall was somewhat shocked to be told by Chris Macgowan, new chief executive, that he could leave at the end of this month. Rumours at the federation's Great Portland Street offices suggest that its leading spokesman was squeezed between Macgowan, in his new role as crusader, and Alan Pulfant, director of RMIF's National Franchised Dealers' Association.



Island race

WETHER Caroline Robins is crowned AA Landlady of the Year or not, her journey to the awards today certainly sets her apart. Having left her desk at Midland Bank in Guernsey four years ago, Robins moved with her husband to run Hotel Petit Champ on the tiny island of Sark. The same woman was cycling to the harbour at 4.30 this morning, where a specially chartered boat took her to Guernsey. Then it was a taxi ride to the airport, a flight to Gatwick, a train to Victoria, and a taxi to the Savoy. Robins, who will make the same journey in reverse tonight, says: "I must be back to serve breakfast."

Supporting role

LIAM DALTON, one of the models for Gordon Gecko in Oliver Stone's movie *Wall Street*, feels that something is missing in his life since the Eighties smash hit. City whiz-kid Dalton, who was crowned a partner at Bear Stearns only two years after leaving college in the US, lent actor Charlie Sheen his red braces for the movie, and they were never returned. Ron Insana, author of *Traders Tales*, includes the anecdote in his collection published this month. Sheen claims that he can't find the trademark "suspenders" but Dalton thinks otherwise.

A SISTER restaurant of the Sloane-infested bistro Foxtrap Oscar is said to be opening up in the City. By the end of this week, restaurateur Michael Proudlock will know whether the City's best will be rubbing shoulders with the likes of Fergie's financial adviser, John Bryan, the Marquess of Blandford, and Diana Ross.

MORAG PRESTON

Upjohn

In the fight against disease, this could be the most powerful weapon yet.



It's not magic. But it may yet work miracles.

This is the trademark of a completely different kind of pharmaceutical venture.

The recently-merged Pharmacia & Upjohn.

It's a partnership that has created a company of quite remarkable depth and scope: over 30,000 people working in 50 countries and serving 200 million people around the world.

And it's for those 200 million people that this announcement should come as very good news.

Because the merger will give two pools of specialised medical talent the opportunity to work together for the first time ever.

Resulting in real, tangible benefits in the fight

against cancer, AIDS, infectious diseases and many other medical conditions.

This merger is not simply a matter of shared resources, however.

It is also about shared ideals.

Our trademark stands as a symbol for humanity, hope and inspiration.

Values that we intend to apply to every single aspect of the way we do business.

You are surprised to hear such sentiments coming from a global pharmaceutical company?

This is not the last time we'll be surprising you.

You can be sure of that.



**Pharmacia
&Upjohn**

AMERICAN INFORMATION SERVICE



■ BLUES

Keb' Mo' charms on debut as the action-packed London Blues Festival (almost) hits its stride



■ CABARET

... while at the Café Royal the former child-star Bonnie Langford displays a new vocal maturity

THE ARTS



■ POP

Punk reincarnate: the Irish trio Ash confirm the golden opinions won with their debut album



■ TOMORROW

Reviews of Manic Street Preachers and the first night of the Open-Air Theatre in Regent's Park

■ JAZZ

A Song in every colour

Marian McPartland
Wigmore Hall

AS MARIAN McPARTLAND announced, in her demure, slightly Americanised accent, that her opening number would be *I'm Old-Fashioned*, a guffaw exploded from somewhere at the front of the audience. Having led an expatriate existence for so many years, McPartland may have the manners and bearing of the Englishwoman abroad, yet "old-fashioned" is definitely the last word to describe her musical tastes.

Anyone who places *Turn-around*, a slice of early Ornette Coleman, on the same programme as Duke Ellington's *Isfahan* is clearly not looking for a quiet life. Half a century after she scandalised her impeccably middle-class family by taking up with jazz and the high-spirited cornetist Jimmy McPartland, she is still making records of a remarkable consistency.

The last time I heard her live, two years ago, she chased those two young guns, Christian McBride and Brian Blade, all around the auditorium in an exuberant performance in Harlem. Though her more restrained trio and quartet recital at the Wigmore Hall — the final instalment in the venue's *Jazz Encounters* chamber series — betrayed signs of a slowing of reflexes, her use of colour and contrast remained unimpaired.

All *The Things You Are* took off on a fugue-like excursion reminiscent of John Lewis, before suddenly dropping in a quotation from *Rockin' in Rhythm*. *Gone with the Wind* was rebuilt around a glimmering, low-register obbligato supplied by John Dankworth's clarinet.

A pity that the other settings were not as varied, many of them lapsing into a mundane pattern of bass and drum solos. Alec Dankworth and Allan Garney are both admirable players, but even they are capable of only so many variations on that particular theme. McPartland happens to be an unusually resourceful solo improviser, as she demonstrated on her 1991 Maybex Hall recital. Given the unforgiving acoustics — ideal for chamber music, of course, but not so hospitable to jazz — duets and unaccompanied pieces would have been doubly welcome.

CLIVE DAVIS

FESTIVALS: Venue-hopping in search of the Bank Holiday weekend blues in London; jazz at its most beguiling in Bath



"A bunch of soloists looking for a band": the Fabulous Thunderbirds headlined the London Blues Festival, but they were not the hottest act on show

Looking for Mr 12-bar

The second London Blues Festival started on a high note and ended on a disappointing if not missed — one. In between times in this all-American line-up, several reputations were confirmed and some were made.

It was bigger and better than last year's event, but work still needs to be done on the programming. Splitting it between two centres and subjecting it to some quirky scheduling (why did the first night of the festival at Watermans, Brentford, only start at 10.45pm and feature just two acts?) made a comprehensive overview of the three days of gigs difficult. A trip to see the Fabulous Thunderbirds, the closing act at Blackheath Concert Halls on Sunday, meant missing Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown at Watermans.

The opening high came courtesy of acoustic guitarist Kevin Moore, alias Keb' Mo'. His debut album, released last year, revealed him as an outstanding talent, able to reinterpret classics such as Robert Johnson's *Kind Hearted Woman Blues* and *Come On in My Kitchen* in a fresh and appealing way as well as provide original songs which combined superb guitar playing with an almost caressing vocal style.

His live act added another dimension — there is power in his playing too, including a string of stunning guitar licks he told us he had learned

from Eugene Powell, the Mississippi bluesman who first recorded in 1936.

It was unfortunate that such an extrovert performer was followed by such an intense one as John Hammond, whose brooding interpretations of Delta classics such as *Drop Down Mama* were fine in their way, but just served to quieten an audience ready to have some fun. That is not to say that Hammond was not good value. There can be few artists who get so involved in their music as he does as, with back arched, eyes closed and veins bulging, he lost himself in each number. The problem was that the effort seemed largely wasted in front of an audience that was merely interested in good time.

The acoustic theme was developed by another young back-to-the-roots musician, Corey Harris. A former teacher, and one of the few bluesmen around with a masters degree in anthropology, Harris, mild and affable onstage, proved to be a commanding and aggressive figure on it, slapping his guitar and lapsing, at times, into almost Howlin' Wolf-like growling

vocals. On a day when the weather was less than kind, it was nice to hear him sing: "I was standing in Blackheath, my feet got soaking wet/I was waiting for my baby and she ain't come yet."

If Harris had been worth waiting for, then so was James Carr — even if the wait had been a little prolonged. It was back in the 1960s that rhythm and blues aficionados would whisper that, although Otis Redding was the most popular soul singer of his era, there was another performer who could give him a run for his money as far as soul ballads were concerned.

That artist was Carr, and there was one song in particular, an aching, poignant number about a cheating called *The Dark End of the Street* which was arguably one of the finest moments of that particularly rich and fertile period.

But the fragile state of his health meant that Carr never achieved the success he deserved. He disappeared for long periods, and it is only in recent years that he has been rediscovered and started recording again.

Making his UK debut, he looked nervous and frail — until he began to

sing. In a voice strong, rich and powerful he reprised all his early hits and provided a version of *Street* that was one of the festival's high spots.

If Carr had taken us into Southern soul territory, then Magic Slim and the Teardrops brought us firmly back into the blues world and its spiritual home, Chicago. Tight wasn't the word for it. Here was a four-piece band that needed only the briefest of guitar licks immediately to impose its authority. Driven by some rock-solid drumming and bass lines, they barely paused between numbers as they gave a superb display of what Chicago blues should be — a dynamism that was controlled and a passion that wasn't.

The Fabulous Thunderbirds then had the opportunity to provide a fitting finale, but failed to do so. Again it was a matter of contrasts. Where Slim was tight and controlled, the Thunderbirds were looser and, it seemed, less focused. There is no denying the skill of virtuous harmonica player and vocalist Kim Wilson or of guitarist Kid Ramos, but the power and good feelings were frittered away in self-indulgent solos that lasted so long you forgot what the song was. There were some marvellous moments, but you couldn't help get the feeling that here was a bunch of soloists looking for a band.

JOHN CLARKE

■ Making his very belated UK debut, James Carr looked nervous — until he sang ■

on having a cheating called *The Dark End of the Street* which was arguably one of the finest moments of that particularly rich and fertile period.

But the fragile state of his health meant that Carr never achieved the success he deserved. He disappeared for long periods, and it is only in recent years that he has been rediscovered and started recording again.

Making his UK debut, he looked nervous and frail — until he began to

Never mind the Pistols ...

POP

Ash Forum, NW5

"NO UNDER 18s Admitted" it said on the tickets. In which case, support group Bis should not have been allowed in for a start. The young Scottish trio's blend of shouty pop and heather punk had a certain frosty appeal, but their few minutes of fame will seem like a very distant memory by the time they reach their twenties.

Not so Ash, who are also still in their teens but seem a more durable proposition altogether. The Irish trio's debut album, 1997, has just topped the British chart and they are very much the new band of the moment. But while their peers in the Britpop movement continue to be mesmerised by the sounds and styles of the 1960s,

BONNIE who? Not that ghastly, ringleted child who found fame on *Opportunity Knocks*, played Violet Elizabeth Bott in *Just William* and then disappeared into the world of the musical stage? Yes and no. By the time the new-look Langford launches into *I Am Changing*, 75 minutes into her show, there are few in the packed audience who do not think the song's message superfluous.

Tiny, she makes the most of her well-proportioned figure in a tight long, black dress, slit to the thigh, with a sparkling bolero jacket. She is strikingly attractive a mature woman aware of her assets. The voice, particularly in the lower register, is warm and rich, astonishingly powerful for her physical size.

At the Café Royal, she fronts a five-piece, with Ian Hughes,

mid-paced and slow-paced songs, including *Oh Yeah* and *Lost in You* (the latter sounding disconcertingly like *Strangers in The Night*) with just as much conviction, and cracked in a competent cover of the old Temptations hit, *Get Ready*, for good measure. The ringing, melodic detail of their singles *Girl From Mars* and *Goldfinger* — both played early on in the set — remained in the mid-long after their show had finished.

Drummer Rick McMurrich was stiff-backed, total lack of swing) and bassist Mark Hamilton (barefoot, instrument round his ankles) both looked and sounded perpetually busy. But singer, guitarist and chief songwriter Tim

Wheeler evinced a peculiarly languid stage persona, never appearing unduly hurried or indeed much bothered as glitter balls and brilliant lights sparked and juddered all around and scenes of mayhem unfolded in the crowd before him.

If the sound was a little rough on the ear, and Wheeler's vocals rather subject to drift, these were minor flaws that went with the territory and did nothing to diminish the palpable sense of occasion.

In this improbable rich season of pop discoveries, yet another major talent has come of age.

DAVID SINCLAIR

If her friends can see her now

CABARET

Bonnie Langford Green Room

links, with a hint of "gosh-darn, isn't-showbiz-fun", recall Langford's early, precocious years. Much more to the point is the assured, even raunchy manner of her handling of material ranging from *Some Cats Know to He Play Piano in the Dark*.

There are show tunes, but usually chosen: apart from a nicely judged *Somewhere That's Green*, from *The Little Shop of Horrors*, the best are a group from *Gypsy* — *Some People and Together Wherever We Go* — and a superb routine tying together *Hay Big Spender*, *There's Gotta Be*

Something Better Than This, *If They Could See Me Now*, *Somebody Loves Me* and *Rhythm of Life*. Casting agents seeing her tackle these would be sorting out the contracts next morning.

Although complaining of a dry throat, she turns in a virtuous *I'm Tone Deaf*, a comic showstopper which, with an athletic performance of Tom Lehrer's *Masochism Tango*, underlines a sense of humour which extends to the parodist. Neil Sedaka's *On the Other Side of Me* has particular resonance, while confident versions of *Take Me To The River*, *Nowhere To Run* and (amazingly) James Brown's *I Got You* suggest tastes tougher than you thought. An altogether surprising and exhilarating evening.

TONY PATRICK

Bring forth thou this fiend of Scotland...

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Independent on Sunday



CHOICE 1
Steven Berkoff
brings his fierce
Coriolanus
to London

VENUE: Now in preview
at the Mermaid Theatre



CHOICE 2
Song and dance,
Thirties-style:
Kim Criswell leads
Dames at Sea

VENUE: This week at the
Ambassadors Theatre

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3
Greenwich hears
John Tavener's new
composition,
Let's Begin Again

VENUE: Tonight at
the Royal Naval College



VISUAL ART
In front of the
children: Kate
Greenaway's book
illustrations are
shown alongside
her successors'

LONDON

CORIOLANUS: Steven Berkoff's much-hyped production arrives in London with himself as a snarling, car-breaking fascist.

Mermaid, Pudding Dock, EC4 (0171-236 2211). Preview begins tonight, 7.30pm. Opens June 12, 7pm. £32

DAMES AT SEA: Ken Crispin, Sara Crowe, Peter Duncan in the first of two musicals in the BOG Covent Garden Festival, a comedy musical in the style of the 1930s, music by Jim Wise & Gordy, director

Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-312 9898). Preview tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 8pm

FRENCH PREMIERE: The conductor Christophe Rousset makes his debut with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Sandrine Piau, soprano, and Christopher Maltman, tenor, in *Carmina Burana*. Handel's *Motet, Sicut erat, sung by the French soprano Véronique Gens*. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-980 2424). Tonight, 7.45pm. £5

LET'S BEGIN AGAIN: The highlight of this first anniversary concert of the Greenwich and Docklands International Festival is the London premiere of John Tavener's new work, *Let's Begin Again*, with Lionel Friend conducting the Thomas Tallis Chamber Choir, British Chamber Soloists, the Tchaikovsky Quartet, Rozario. The evening begins with Philip Stahmann conducting a programme of

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

20th-century a capella works, by Copland, Barber and Tippett.

Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich Festival box office 0181-317 6867. Tonight, 7.30pm

ELSEWHERE

BATH: The dynamic young American soprano Tiffany Jackman gives a recital in the Assembly Rooms. The Jewish-inspired repertoire includes Prokofiev's *Overture on Jewish Themes*, Milhaud's *Poème pour violon et piano* and Bloch's *Midrashim*.

Revel and Brahms' *Piano Quintet in F minor*. She is accompanied by the pianist Rogerigno and Barry Douglas, violin, David Orlowsky, cello, and Peter Du, piano.

Festival box office (01225 463362). Tonight, 7.30pm

CHICHESTER: A rare opportunity to see Peter Ustinov playing someone other than Lustig. In this case Ludwig van, brought to life in his play *Beethoven in Love*. Tim Rice and John Neale also in the company, directed by Joe Hartman.

FESTIVAL THEATRE: *Coriolanus* (01243 781312). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens June 6, 7.30pm. Then in rep with *Mansfield Park*.

LEEDS: Opening night for *Mohandas* (The Hypochondriac), subtitled *Sick in the Head*. Edward Kemp's new work with music by James With Paul Shreider in the title role.

Country, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quay Hill (0113 244 2111). Tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.45pm; matc

Wed (June 5, 12) 2pm. Sat (June 8) 3pm. Until June 22

MOLD: *Method and Madness presents Jude the Obscure*. Thomas Hardy's controversial novel of four people trying to realize their love. Adapted and directed by Mike Alfreds. Theatre Clwyd (01322 556114). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; matc Sat 3pm

LONDON GALLERIES

Bookshop, Derek Jarman: Artist Film, (0171-920 1222); Mall Galleries:

Royal Society of Portrait Painters (0171-920 1222); Museum of London: London Film (0171-920 1222); National Gallery: Dogs (0171-747 2865); National Portrait Gallery: The Room in View (071-308 0065).

The New Displays (0171-920 0000) V & A: Victorian Prints (0171-920 0000); Whitechapel: Renato Guttuso (0171-782 7895)

BEAST ON THE MOON: Richard Kiel's award-winning play about two survivors of the 1915 Armenian massacre, now in Milwaukee.

Directed by Irene Gandy. BAC, 178 Lower Bedford Row, WC1 (0171-223 2223). Tues-Sat 8pm. Sun 5pm. Until June 2

CHAPTER TWO: Tom Curiel and Sharon Glass play unlikely new neighbours in Neil Simon's comedy. *Not My Neighbour*. Gladys, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8.15pm; matc Thurs 8pm; Sat 8pm

COMEDY OF ERRORS: The New Shakespeare Company's second opens with a double-bill of scenes from the Bard's double-act mix-up. Directed by Bruce Desarnaut and Paula Wilcox. OpenAir Theatre, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-927 2000). Tues-Fri, 8pm; matc Weds 8pm; Sat 8pm; Sun 4pm

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED): The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, polished, rough-and-ready take on the Bard's plays. Garrick, Peacock Circus, W1 (0171-369 1270). Tues-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 4pm

THE DEVIL IS AN ASS: Ben Jonson's adventures of a junior devil in a sleepy London he soon finds to be far from hell. An energetic but hollow production

NEW RELEASES

Angus (12): Fal fal fights off his bullies. Tame teen movie that means well. With Charlie Talbert and Kathy Baker. Director: Patrick Head. Johnson Pictures (0171-369 1720)

MUPPET TREASURE ISLAND (U): Kermit and Miss Piggy invade Stevenson's classic. Jolly addition to the Muppet movie saga. With Tim Curry. Director: Brian Henson. Clapton Pictures House (0171-498 3323); Miramax Chelsea (0171-552 5096); Treasures (0171-434 0021); Odense: Kensington (01425 914566); Miramax: London (0171-920 0000); Picturehouse (01225 914559); Rio (0171-557 1777); UCI Whitley (0171-732 3322); Warner West End (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

BLIND IN THE FACE (15): Stones and shades by Brooklyn life. Indigo

comics plus photo to Smiley, with Holly Hunter. Director: Wang Chang

Chelsea (0171-351 3742); Plaza (0171-437 4374); Richmonds (0181-332 0030); Ritzy (0171-737 2121)

KIDS (16): Undressing portrait of kids running wild in Manhattan. A splendid film. Director: Ridley Scott. Odeon Mezzanine (01265 519583)

SECRETS & LIES (15): Mike Leigh's Cannes triumph, an uneven but absorbing tale about family life, its pains, bonds, and skeletons. With Brenda Blethyn and Timothy Spall

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere indicated across the country

Barbican: (0171-638 6891); Clapton Picture House (0171-498 3323); Lumière (0171-436 0011); MCM: Fulham Road (0171-370 2638); Odense: Kensington (01425 914566); Screen on the Green (01225 914572); UCI Whitley (0171-732 3322); Warner West End (0171-437 4343)

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cast is very professional. Clapham Picture House (0171-406 3323); GMG: Fulham Road (0171-370 2638); Haymarket (0171-639 1927); Trafalgar Court Road (0171-638 0001); UCI Whitley (0171-732 3322); UCI Whitley (0171-732 3322); Warner West End (0171-437 4343)

ROUGH MAGIC (12): Meggan's assistant (Kathy Reichs) finds this magic in Memphis. A little oddity from director Clare Peploe. Odense: Kensington (01425 914566)

SMOKE (16): Cross-dressing lives in Brooklyn. Aggro, tatty pieces, with Harvey Keitel and William Hurt. MGM: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-638 6278); Rendell (0171-937 8402)

THINGS TO DO IN DENVER (16): WHEN YOU'RE DEAD (16): Up and coming actress, Sophie Okonedo, director Gary Fisher, with Angie Everhart. MCM: Chelsea (0171-639 1927); Odense: Kensington (01425 914566); Warner West End (0171-737 2121)

WHITE SNAFFL (12): Jeff Bridges' school shop battles the elements. Waterlogged drama with a splendid cast. Director: Ridley Scott. Odeon Mezzanine (01265 519583)

Tickets information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 29 1996

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■ MUSIC

Classical and jazz meet in a music-theatre piece that has its roots in personal tragedy



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THE TIMES
ARTS



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MUSIC: Family tragedy lies behind a new work by one of Britain's finest composers. James Woodall reports

Jazz-tinged elegy for a lost brother

Jazz fans will know the names: John Scofield, who played guitar for Miles Davis; and Peter Erskine, who played drums for the jazz-rock band Weather Report. The biggest jazz fan in British contemporary classical music is the 35-year-old composer Mark-Anthony Turnage. His new work, *Blood on the Floor* — commissioned by the Frankfurt-based Ensemble Modern — was written with these American players, particularly Scofield, in mind.

Last weekend in Frankfurt, Turnage was in heaven. Scofield and Erskine had arrived at the *Fabrik* — or “factory” — where the Ensemble Modern has its offices. Four days of rehearsal lay ahead. Erskine has been one of the most sought-after drummers for two decades. He joined Weather Report in 1978, at the height of the group’s fame. Scofield had cut his teeth as guitarist with Charlie Mingus and Billy Cobham before joining Miles Davis in 1982. He has made many solo recordings since.

Turnage is a fan of both. “Two years ago,” he says on the second day of rehearsals, “I didn’t have a clue about how to get in touch with people like Scofield and Erskine. The jazz and classical worlds are so divided. Never in my dreams would I have thought that I’d be sitting in that rehearsal room with Scofield and Erskine.”

The fact that the Ensemble Modern is behind the new piece helps. Recently this multinational, leaderless group, who make their decisions collectively, performed Frank Zappa’s *The Yellow Shark* in London. Since coming together in 1980 they have worked with various celebrated jazz musicians, including Ornette Coleman. Turnage’s relationship with the Ensemble began in 1988. It performed the world premiere of his opera *Greek* in Munich. Turnage’s next piece, *Kai*, was a tribute to Kai Scheffler, a cellist and one of the Ensemble’s

founder members who died of Aids shortly after the *Munich Greek*. *Blood on the Floor* was initially inspired by Francis Bacon’s painting showing a splash of blood on a wooden floor. (Bacon was central to Turnage’s famous *Three Screaming Poppies*, commissioned by Simon Rattle and the CBSO in 1990.) The piece that is now the overture to the new nine-movement work was premiered by the Ensemble in late 1994. Little did they or Turnage know, once composition was under

“If only he could know that a piece is being played in memory of him”

way, what deeper and darker impetus the full piece would ride on a few months later.

In March 1995, Turnage’s younger brother Andrew was found dead from a drug overdose. For the previous six months he had cut himself off from his family, including Mark-Anthony. They had always been close. Turnage knew nothing about the drug addiction.

“Andrew was warm-hearted,”

Turnage recalls, “and an amazingly naive guy, in the positive sense. He never used to do anything in excess. But because he was very trusting, he got in with some people he was very impressed with. He got into crack, and died of a lethal dose of heroin and cocaine.”

Blood on the Floor has turned into a tribute to Turnage’s brother. Its theme is urban alienation, but it is also full of boldly textured lyricism and — naturally — plenty of jazz.

● *Blood on the Floor* will be played at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4342) tomorrow and Friday at 8pm

On the first day of rehearsals, John Scofield had played a guitar solo in a section entitled *Elegy for Andy*. “Andrew really liked Miles Davis,” says Turnage. “When John played that bit, it got to me, I cried. I thought, ‘God, if only he could know that a piece is being played in memory of him.’”

Turnage’s own passion for jazz appeared relatively late. His parents, both amateur musicians, brought him up on a diet of the classics. Under Oliver Knussen at the Royal College of Music’s junior department, Turnage came to his studies well-armed with Boulez and Stockhausen. However, at the Royal College’s senior department, he grew disillusioned with the European avant-garde.

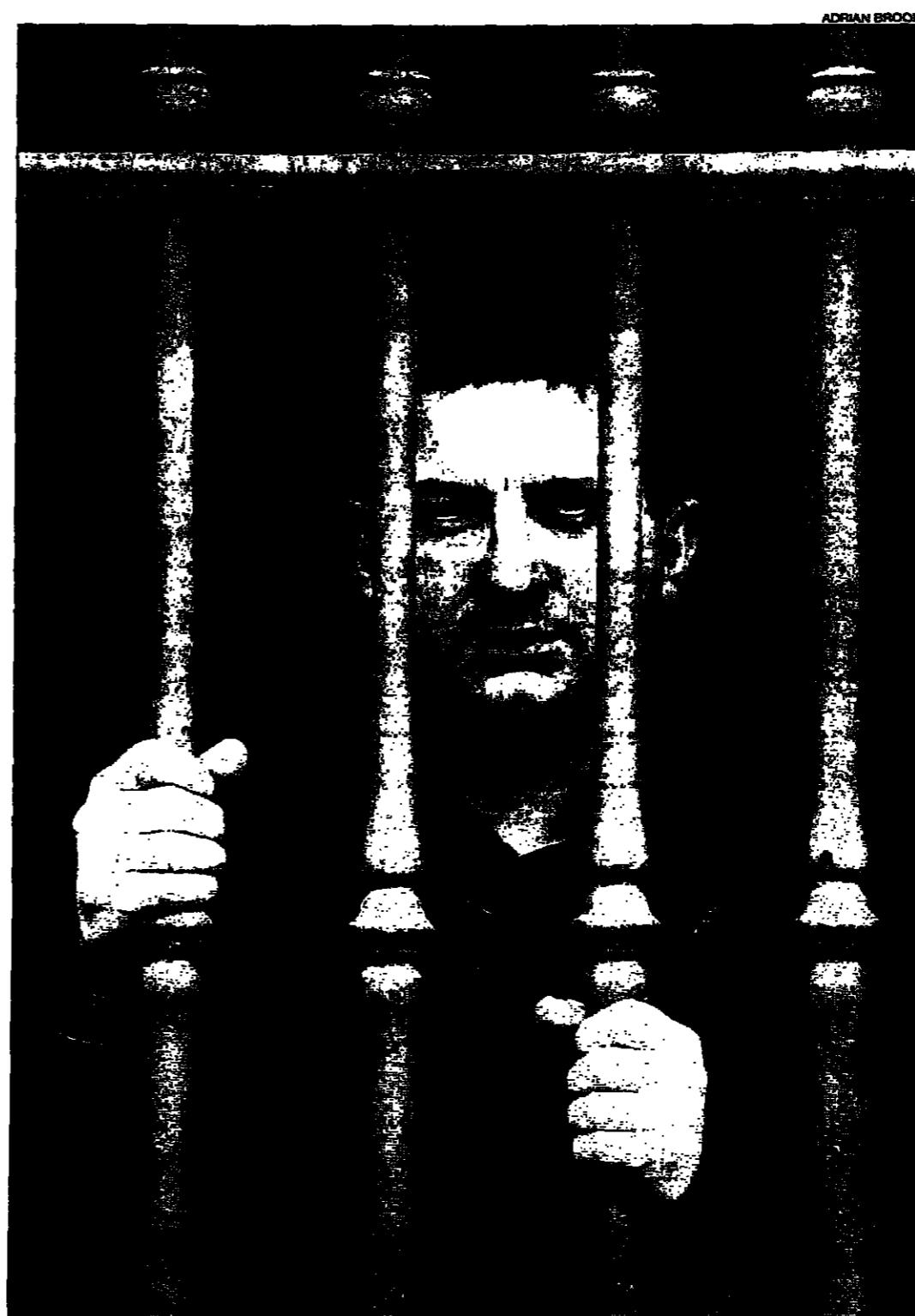
“From 1978 I was obsessed with jazz. I suddenly found out that these world-class figures — Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, Miles Davis — excluded from music history, were doing things in the 1950s that were more interesting than Boulez’s *Pli selon pli*.”

In all his work from *Screaming Poppies* on, Turnage has borrowed brilliantly from jazz’s improvisatory rhythms and textures. He has done so without any of the preciousness of more high-minded composers, and a marked lack of the anorak expertise of the conventional jazz freak.

This appealing unpretentiousness was wonderfully on show in Frankfurt. During a rehearsal break, Erskine and Scofield jammed together for ten minutes, a superb little duet of just electric guitar and drums. The Ensemble’s players were transfixed. Standing closest of all to the two Americans was Turnage, smiling broadly.

“I’m a bit of a fan of people,” he said later. “In a sense, I’m really just a teencybopper.”

● *Blood on the Floor* will be played at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4342) tomorrow and Friday at 8pm



“The jazz and classical worlds are so divided,” says Mark-Anthony Turnage. He was brought up in the classical idiom, but his new work *Blood on the Floor* was written with top jazz musicians in mind

Packing a punch

THE Turning World festival is an annual celebration of contemporary dance from abroad. This year’s edition includes the latest from Berlin’s Sasha Waltz, Prague’s Lenka Flory, Montpelier’s Mathilde Monnier, Valencia’s Vicente Saez. But the festival opened with a look back, at the first work created by the Belgian choreographer Wim Vandekeybus.

What the Body Does Not Remember, made in 1987, belongs to that brand of dance-theatre that was so popular in the Eighties: all power, punch and peril. Objects are thrown — most frightening are what appear to be concrete bricks — and dancers are subjected to intense physical pressures. The

Wim Vandekeybus
The Place Theatre

audience is left reeling. There is a repetition and perseverance to the choreography that suggests an epic struggle (albeit not without its humour) to overcome the obstacles of a frenetic world. The work’s emotional heart is revealed in scenes, some harrowing, others heart-breakingly futile, that could be realisations of a group therapy session on anger and frustration.

Dancers, from Vandekeybus’s Ultima Vez company, sling the concrete slabs at each other like deranged stone masons, having a collective nervous breakdown, while others use them to build precarious bridges. The dancers endure body-pounding duets that are charged with sexual aggression and male-female antagonism. Even the aural background (music by Thierry De Mey and Peter Vermeersch) is brutal.

Although Vandekeybus uses parallel images of manipulation at the beginning and end, *What the Body Does Not Remember* is not set within a cohesive structure. Instead the effect is like that of a carousel: it doesn’t matter where you get on, the ride is always the same.

DEBRA CRAINE

DEGAS: BEYOND IMPRESSIONISM — DAY FIVE

Richard Cork selects highlights from the National Gallery’s current exhibition of later works by the master

A host of pictures testify to Degas’ obsession with this pose. Like so many of his bathing figures, the woman’s face is turned away from us, so nothing distracts us from the vigorous movement of her body.Flushed with warmth from the hot water, she rubs the nape of her neck with a towel wrapped firmly around her hand. Degas’ virtuoso command of the pastel medium allows him to convey the towel’s fluffiness.

But he is just as persuasive in his treatment of her glowing flesh. This deserves to be ranked among the most sensuous of all Degas’ nudes. It is a delectable image, and far more celebratory than later, more disturbing pictures in the same series. Degas rejoices in the rumpled movement of the dangling towel, and reinforces its dynamism in the curtains’ even greater turbulence. Cascading down from the top of the picture, and invading her body on the right, they set the whole composition into billowing motion.

Degas’ use of pastel becomes very excitable above her shoulder, where he peppers the image with stars of whiteness. But the focus ultimately rests on the woman’s body, modelled with subtlety and vigour by the most searching, resourceful draughtsman of his era.

● *Degas Beyond Impressionism* is at the National Gallery until Aug 26 (tickets from First Call, 0171-420 0000)

● Tomorrow, Richard Cork continues his Degas guide with a discussion of *Woman at her bath* (c. 1893-98)

Degas the draughtsman: After the bath, c.1890-93

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● PAUL GOODWIN conducts the acclaimed period instrument orchestra, the Academy of Ancient Music, in a semi-staged evening of rarely heard Mozart gems: *The Impresario* and *Zaide*. Club members can save 25 per cent on the top three ticket prices (normally £20 to £40).

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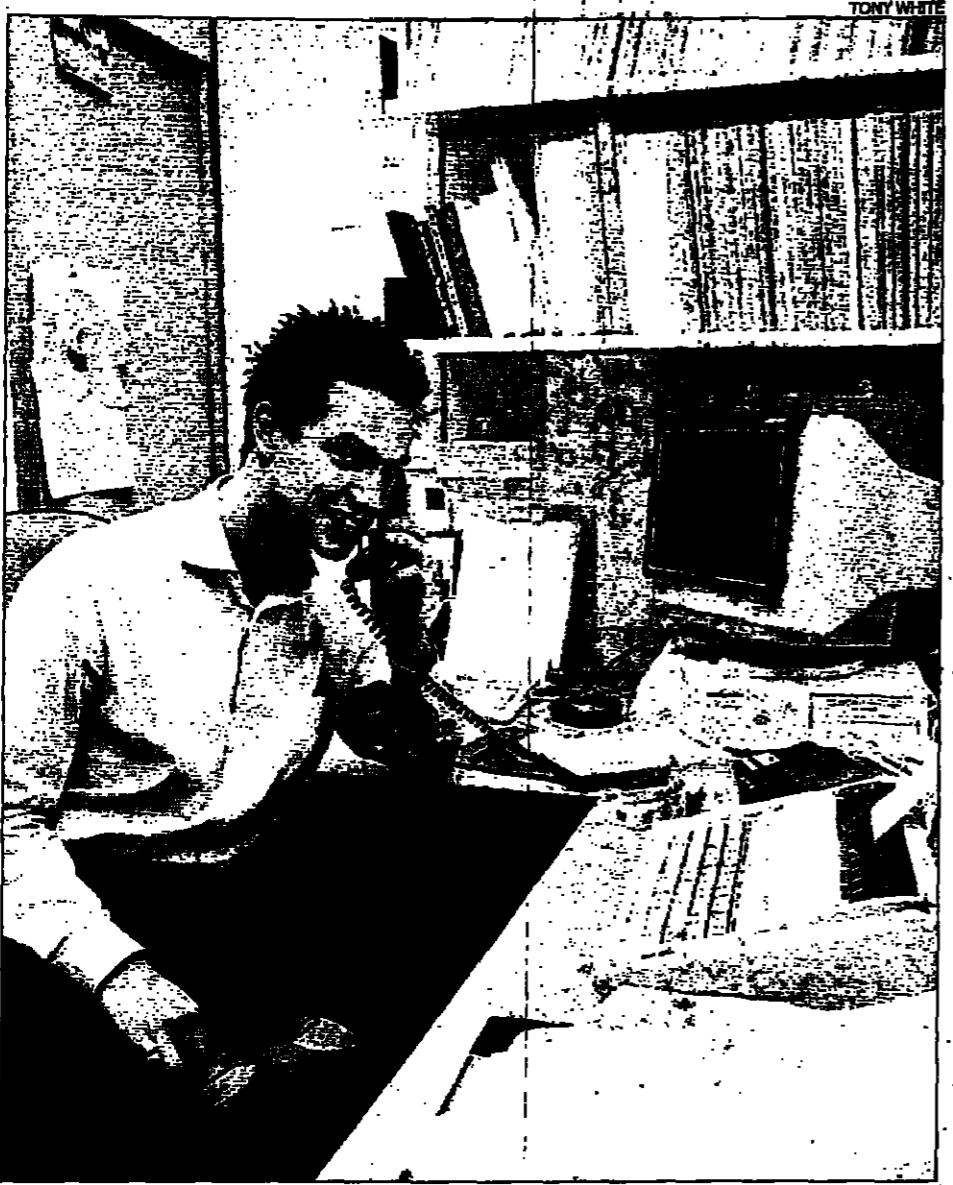
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Robert Collins has a first-class Oxford degree, but started work as a part-time typist

Keyboard key to a career

It never entered my head to seek promotion when I was a secretary in the Sixties. I did change jobs, but only to move sideways, usually because I felt it was time to try something new.

Graduates were in a different league. They may have started at the bottom, but their fingers never touched the keyboard. They were the future high-flyers. We were the ones left behind, pounding away on our uprights.

Today's situation can hardly be more different, partly because of the recession and partly changing attitudes and expectations. Secretarial work is beginning to be recognised — by both bosses and employees — as an invaluable training ground. Those who score it may well be losing out.

Both men and women, graduates and non-graduates alike, are now often starting off at the same level — doing a job that involves typing the boss's letters, whether called assistant co-ordinator or secretary. While some are doing the job for its own sake, more are seeing it as a way of getting a foot in the door, and of gaining experience.

"Men are expected to type now," says Jago Irwin, 24, an architectural history graduate who has realised he may lose out without keyboard skills. He is employed in the post-

room of actors and writers agents Peters Fraser & Dunlop, having done a series of "odds and ends" in the way of jobs. To make the vital leap from post-room to agent's assistant, he is about to take a typing course.

The same firm employs Robert Collins, 23, who has a first-class degree in modern languages from Oxford, as a part-time typist. Mr Collins, who works for the agent Anthony Jones, went to St James' Secretarial College, believing it "a useful thing to do". When the job turned up, it seemed perfect — he had the afternoons free to write his novel. Opportunities are there, says Mr Collins: "Already I'm doing a bit more apart from the typing — they're delegating things to me, mostly by dint of being here. Knowing the clients and what is going on. And, of course, by typing Anthony's letters I get a good idea of what he's doing."

Design graduate Lucy MacKenzie, 23, found it hard to

survive in the competitive world of design — despite having won a Habitat competition — and reluctantly resorted to a secretarial course.

Through the recruitment agency Angela Mortimer she found a job as production secretary with SFTV, the independent television company

If you don't make an effort, you will not get on. The people who do are those who notice things that need doing without being asked'

survive in the competitive world of design — despite having won a Habitat competition — and reluctantly resorted to a secretarial course.

Through the recruitment agency Angela Mortimer she found a job as production secretary with SFTV, the independent television company

which makes programmes for BBC schools television. A year later, she's "smiled" with her change of prospects. She is now a production co-ordinator and has already designed several props for a series.

With only one O-level, Emma Finch, 24, felt her future was bleak. "I just wanted to teach myself something that would take me up

firm took her with him as his PA.

Most young secretaries would agree that they quickly gain confidence as well as experience by virtue of being in the job. Claire Morgan, 21, who trained at Queen's Marlborough College after her A-levels, says that when she started in the management consultancy division of the

accountants Ernst & Young she was so shy she was "like a frightened rabbit". Now she is a different person. "It's done me the power of good. It's such a large organisation and you have to get used to dealing with so many people."

Young people, however, must be realistic in their expectations, says Amanda Main-Tucker, the recruitment consultant. Many, especially graduates, feel too grand for secretarial work and complain that they are not getting on fast enough.

"The world really is your oyster if you can get your foot into a company — you have a wonderful opportunity to get experience. But if you just sit there and don't make an extra effort, you will not get on. The people who get on are those who notice things that need doing without being asked. Say you are typing a letter which says 'we'd like to hear from you in a week', you'll note that in your diary and in a week's time you'll tap your boss on the shoulder saying: 'Did they get back to you?'

There are opportunities to progress, especially in PR, marketing and retailing, adds Charlotte Summers, a recruitment consultant. But being a graduate does not guarantee promotion. A bright young person with GCSEs may go far with the right attitude.

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For an application pack please write to: Jennifer MacEwan, Recruitment Assistant, Canterbury House, Canterbury Road, London, NW6 5SQ. Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 14th June 1996.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 29 1996

RACING 43

Proposals put forward to end practice of coupling runners

France plans to reform betting system

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

FRANCE-GALOP, the country's racing authority, has taken steps to abandon the practice of coupling horses for betting purposes in time for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp on October 6.

The move will be welcomed by the 20,000 British racegoers who habitually attend the Arc, and who are often caught out by the coupling procedure. Horses owned by the same individual are grouped together as one entry in French betting pools. This necessarily diminishes the odds, particularly when owners like Sheikh Mohammed may have three or four running horses in the race.

The mechanism has led to heated confrontations between unknowing victims of the practice and those managing betting terminals. But proposals to abandon coupling are to be endorsed by France-Galop and forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture for ratification. It is hoped the introduction of individual odds for each runner will be in place by September 1.

French racing is labouring against the popularity of a country's National Lottery, and the move to abandon coupling forms part of a wider strategy to generate interest in horse racing. The experiment granting free admission to racegoers on selected days has seen attendances rise by 40 per cent, although similar increases in betting turnover have not been forthcoming.

In a separate development, triggered by events in last year's Arc, France-Galop has made it mandatory for connections to declare whether they are running any of their



Carnegie, near side, wins the 1994 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, but his odds were reduced because he was coupled with three unplaced runners

horses as a pacemaker. Even though he ran in different colours, all the evidence surrounding Luso's Arc participation in October suggested he was sacrificed for Lammer's cause.

Those who backed Luso

confirmed that Al-Maktoum and trained by Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin stable. Luso is owned by Saeed Manana, whose racing affairs are handled by Sheikh Mohammed's Darley Stud Management. However, the two horses were not coupled for betting purposes.

Horses trained in Britain are responsible for 55 — some 36 per cent — of the Arc entries this year. Paul Cole is preparing Riyadian for the race and said the colt would

have a maximum of one run before the championship contest. Interesting omissions are Nash House and Parasam.

Willie Carson now intends to appeal against the five-day ban imposed on him after he wore an unapproved helmet when landing the Irish 1,000 aboard Matiya last Saturday. His appeal will be heard in the Turf Club's offices at the Curragh tomorrow. As things stand, Carson misses the Oaks a week on Friday but would

return to partner Alhaarth in the Derby the next day.

One of Alhaarth's opponents will be Mickie Love. The Godolphin runner was yesterday withdrawn from Sunday's Prix du Jockey-Club in favour of Epsom, where he will be ridden by John Murtagh. Godolphin may yet be represented in France by Don Micheletto, while Peter Chapple-Hyam is considering supplementing his Chester Vase winner, High Baroque.

The new measures were announced in London yesterday by Louis Romanet, director of international racing at Lamarrata, owned by Saeed

and confirmed that Forte's three-year contract to sponsor the Arc will be honoured with the same financial commitments as before. Forte's takeover by Granada earlier this year. The race will be run as the Forte/Meridien Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

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In a separate development, triggered by events in last year's Arc, France-Galop has made it mandatory for connections to declare whether they are running any of their

horses as a pacemaker. Even though he ran in different colours, all the evidence surrounding Luso's Arc participation in October suggested he was sacrificed for Lammer's cause.

Those who backed Luso

confirmed that Al-Maktoum and trained by Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin stable. Luso is owned by Saeed Manana, whose racing affairs are handled by Sheikh Mohammed's Darley Stud Management. However, the two horses were not coupled for betting purposes.

Horses trained in Britain

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Brown's horizons must not be limited by England



Fairbrother: miscast

A trend is taking hold in English cricket that is unlikely, in the long term, to be to its advantage. Players are being prematurely labelled as either one-day specialists or Test match technicians, whereas in fact the best at one are much the most likely to be, or to become, the best at the other.

The World Cup, the blue riband of the one-day game, has always been won by countries playing their Test sides. West Indies did theirs when they won at Lord's in 1975 and 1979, as did India when they won in 1983, and Australia when they won in Calcutta in 1987, and Pakistan in Melbourne in 1992, and Sri Lanka in Lahore in 1996.

England, on the other hand, seem increasingly to be categorising their up-and-coming players, almost mak-

ing two separate species of them, and I am not at all sure that is wise.

An early example was the case of Neil Fairbrother. I well remember the day at Lord's in 1991 when Denis Compton opened the stands named after himself and Bill Edrich during the lunch interval of a one-day international. England were playing West Indies, who were still a considerable force, and they won because of a wonderful innings by Fairbrother. He made 113 in 107 balls and in poor light, and into the bargain he sparkled in the open spaces, with the new ball

moving about as it was then, that would have tested Gilbert Jessop or Learie Constantine or Charlie Barnett, three ideal "pinch-hitters" for you, let alone a freshman finding his way. Brown is "fresh from Natur's mould".

No doubt there is work to be done on his technique, but as he showed at Old Trafford on Monday, he really is some striker of a cricket ball. There is not much of him, but what there is very strong; he has a good eye, and at 26 he is not too young and he is not old. He has, what is more, a batting average of 45 from his first 65 first-class matches and that is much more likely to be to his advantage than his youth as a one-day pinch-hitter and brought out just for one-day internationals, much like Fairbrother. Yet not six weeks before rattling up 82 in 44 balls against England at Faisalabad in March, he made 48 and 112 in a Test match against Australia in Adelaide. Given the right conditions and the right encouragement and the opportunity, he can play both games, different though they may be, and so, I believe, could Brown.

After England's victory at Old Trafford on Monday, Michael Atherton said that the selectors will have "entirely different priorities in mind" when they choose their teams for the forthcoming Test matches. Matthew Maynard, another player with real flair, and Brown, despite his defining hundred, must have felt as if they had been told that they were not scholarship material, but that when there was another Texaco one-day quiz it would be nice to have them along. If the scholarship side were themselves doing better, that might not have jarred quite as it did; even so, this idea of labelling players seems to me divisive – and not something to become understood.



Brown: misunderstood

Yorkshire secure semi-final place

Byas walks tall in crushing defeat of Surrey

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE OVAL (Yorkshire won toss; Yorkshire beat Surrey by nine wickets)

YORKSHIRE walked all over Surrey yesterday and, after the way Surrey have started the season, that is quite an achievement. The man who left the biggest footprints was their captain, David Byas, who won the gold award for his first century in the Benson and Hedges Cup, and his best score in one-day cricket. On this showing, Yorkshire need fear nobody.

Byas, aided by Vaughan and then by Bevan, made the Surrey bowling look very ordinary and, to be frank, much of it was. By the end of a day that began under the sun and ended under the threat of rain, Surrey looked a rabble at times. It took Lewis all of seven minutes to bowl his sixth over, by which time the game was well and truly won and lost. Much good those deliberations did him.

Bevan, even more than Byas, is the key man in this maturing Yorkshire side. He has assumed the role of overseas player with a confidence that has clearly infected the younger members of a well-balanced team and he was at his withering best here. He took five leg-side boundaries from Benjamin's last over as though by right illustrating the difference in class that separated the teams. There were 125 overs left when he swung the winning runs over mid-wicket.

Byas began the day well, winning the toss and giving his bowlers first use of a pitch that offered them some assistance. No ball misbehaved but there was something for the

man who constantly landed the ball on a good length. Later, Lewis produced an absolute snorter with his first ball to Vaughan, but neither he nor the other Surrey bowlers hit that patch often enough. The Yorkshiresmen observed a better length and, no less significantly, found a tighter line.

Although Yorkshire's fielding was not flawless – Byas missed Brown at slip early on – the Surrey batsmen were in a benevolent mood. Ward and Brown drove straightforward catches. Stewart played on trying to cut a ball that was too close for the stroke to be executed safely and Holliswood was leg-before to Stump's second ball, his bat outside the line of one that straightened.

Thorpe held the fort all too briefly and when Stump bowled him by pushing the ball through quicker and fuller, Surrey surrendered their last authentic batsman. Lewis contributed 32 useful runs, and there were some successful strokes from the Bicknells, but a score of 229 never looked adequate.

No matter how Stewart jugged his bowlers the changes had little effect. Bevan took two strides down the pitch to Pearson, the off spinner, and singed the bowler's whiskers with a drive that bounced back from the pavilion gates. The next ball, which was not a half volley, was driven beautifully past extra cover, along the ground. It was proper batting.

When he made 93 Byas reached his highest score in the competition and his century came from 85 balls with 16 fours. Together Byas and Bevan added 136 in 22 overs and played with a comfort that made light of their task. Surrey, who won all four of their group matches, had been routed.

© Sir Donald Bradman, whose greatness as a cricketer has been matched by his stubbornness in rejecting offers to do lengthy television interviews, will be the subject of a two-hour programme, *Don Bradman – 87 Not Out*, in Australia today. He will appear in a face-to-face interview with Ray Martin, having been persuaded to do so during a meeting with Kerry Packer, the owner of the Nine Network, which will broadcast the programme.

Silverwood, who took three wickets, two to catches off his own bowling, once again revealed his promise. Stewart summoned his men for a huddle when Surrey took the field and before long they were in a muddle. Byas and Vaughan did not tear into the bowling but, because so much of it was misdirected, they found boundaries at their leisure. By the time Vaughan drove Benjamin to Lewis in the gully in the fifteenth over, the openers had shared 94 runs.

The distinction of Byas's innings was his driving, particularly his straight driving. He went to 50 in 39 balls, finding the ropes eight times, the seventh a drive off the back foot through mid-off. Darren Bicknell was feeling rather foolish by then, having missed a chance Byas offered when he was 15. The ball reached Bicknell at a good height and he got both hands to it so it was a bad miss.

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What play there was saw some outstanding batting, the highlights of which were one superb "orthodox" one-day innings from the in-form Rob

Bailey and two brilliant exhibitions of hitting by David Capel and Matthew Fleming. Both were promoted to hit over the inner ring of fielders in the early stages and, in their differing ways, did so to devastating effect. When Capel was out in Northamptonshire's thirteenth over, he had scored 63 out of 76 from 45 balls, with 11 fours; when Fleming was out in Kent's sixth over – unhappy that play was continuing in drizzle – he had struck 40 out of 56 from 23 balls, with nine fours. It was breathtaking stuff.

While Fleming is carving a new career for himself out of such early-order destruction, Capel finds the term pinch-hitter offensive to his ideals of aggressive strokemaking. But in racing to a 29-ball half-century he offered one chance and took risks he would rarely contemplate in other circumstances.

He created merry havoc among Kentish ranks, with McCague pulled out of the attack after his first two overs had cost 20. He was entrusted with only five further overs. With the exception of Ealham,

Kent's bowling was wayward and their out-cricket uninspired, except for one agile piece of fielding by Hooper that cost Warren his wicket.

Turned to winning, Northamptonshire were far more focused in the field, which made Fleming's performance all the more astonishing. Taylor's first over went for 16 and Ambrose can rarely have seen two of his first five balls clipped to the boundary with such nonchalance.

One of the differences between the sides was how they batted once these hitters de-

parted. Whereas Kent collapsed, Northamptonshire flourished, under the careful stewardship of Bailey, who had quietly dug himself in towards the end of Capel's stay. Lowe was his principal partner in a stand of 87, but Montgomerie and Pemberthy also lent sensible support.

There can be few better batsmen in the county game at pacing an innings than Bailey, who scarcely looked like getting out or failing to reach his century. He got there in the final over, with a flick off his legs against Fleming that sailed over the square leg boundary, and his unbeaten 105 in 129 balls will probably bring him his fourth successive gold award.

Kent's hopes all but died in the space of seven balls. In that time, Hooper carelessly chipped Pemberthy to deep mid-off and, in the same over, Cowdry was caught behind off a superb inswinger. In the next over, Llong was also the victim of a wonderful delivery, from Curran.

Bailey builds on Capel's destructive start

By SIMON WILDE

NORTHAMPTON (Kent won toss; Kent, with six wickets in hand, need 186 runs in 29.1 overs to beat Northamptonshire)

LAST YEAR, it took Northamptonshire until July 9 to win a limited-overs match against another county; this year they seem unable to do anything else. Today they should complete their ninth win out of nine and move into the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-finals at the expense of Kent.

When he made 93 Byas reached his highest score in the competition and his century came from 85 balls with 16 fours. Together Byas and Bevan added 136 in 22 overs and played with a comfort that made light of their task. Surrey, who won all four of their group matches, had been routed.

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NORTHAMPTON SCOREBOARD

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	
J P Taylor and C E L Ambrose did not bat	65
Fall 4-184, 5-185, 6-230, 7-274	
BOWLING: T A Bond 10-0-39-0; Thompson 10-0-38-1; Ealham 10-0-38-2; Fleming 10-0-38-1; Hooper 4-0-29-0; Patel 5-0-27-1; Cowdry 8-0-45-0.	
KENT	
T R Ward not out	31
M J Walker, M J McCague, M J Ambrose to bat	
M J Walker, M J McCague, M J Ambrose to bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56-1; Ealham 5-1-39-1; Cowdry 5-0-27-1; Cowdry 8-0-45-0.	
BOWLING: Taylor 3-0-35-0; Ambrose 5-0-35-0; Curran 7-1-31-1; Pemberthy 5-12-2	
Umpires: J D Bond and G I Burgess.	

Total (7 wkt, 50 overs) 228

Score at 15 overs: 88-2

N J Llong b Curran

M A Ealham not out

Extra (b 1, 6, 1, w 1) 4

Total (4 wkt, 20.5 overs) 108

Score at 15 overs: 85-4

M J Walker, M J McCague, M J Ambrose to bat

M J Patel and J D Thompson to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56-1; Ealham 5-1-39-1; Cowdry 5-0-27-1; Cowdry 8-0-45-0.

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Umpires: J D Bond and G I Burgess.

Elworthy serves Lancashire well

By IVO TENNANT

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss; Lancashire, with seven wickets in hand, need 147 runs in 44 overs to beat Gloucestershire)

THE burdensome task of replacing Wasim Akram as the Lancashire overseas player has fallen to Steven Elworthy, a South African all-rounder who, before this match, had hardly cut the mustard. Now, he excelled himself, taking four Gloucestershire wickets for 14. This Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final, however, is far from over. Needing 159 to win, Lancashire lost both openers and Austin in the gloaming.

Elworthy has been left out of the Lancashire side already this season, which would suggest that the club did not know enough about him when taking him on. In his one match against England during the

winter, for Nicky Oppenheimer's XI, he did not take a wicket. His inclusion yesterday meant that there was no place for Chapple, which was hardly to the benefit of England cricket.

Yet how well Elworthy served Lancashire yesterday, promoted four places above Symonds in the order, was given out slogging and Hancock was caught behind. Compton was obtained through the fallings of the batsmen, then

otherwise, discounting the first two breaks for rain and bad light. He did just enough with the ball for every batsman to treat him with respect.

The best Gloucestershire batting came at the start of the innings, when Wright put on 52 with Trainor, who was given his chance after making two half-centuries on his first-class debut. He made 25 now before Hegg held him at the wicket, commendably standing up to Austin.

Otherwise, there was a sharp throw by Austin from mid-off that ran out Davis as he made to take a sharp single, a sorry contribution from Russell and some rather more intelligent batting by Ball at the end of the innings than had occurred in the middle.

It is now a question of what Walsh and Smith can do today. They bowled well enough last night, taking three wickets in the six overs that Lancashire had to endure.

Recalcitrant Sidhu refuses to budge

By PAT GIBSON

CHELMSFORD (first day of three, the Indians won toss; Essex, with all their first-innings wickets in hand, are 319 runs behind India)

IF THE Indians are worried about the perfunctory "retirement" of Navjot Singh Sidhu, their foremost opening batsman, it did not show in the way they batted yesterday. It was as though nobody had told them that the one-day internationals are over and it is time to turn their thoughts towards the Test series.

Vikram Rathore, who will have to learn that first-class hundreds are not to be sneezed at, and Sachin Tendulkar, who should already know, both threw their wickets away when centuries were there for the taking before an accomplished 51 by the emerging Saurav Ganguly took them to a declaration at 320 for 8.

The Sidhu affair occupied the Indian management for most of the day and well into the evening. He stayed at the team hotel, where all attempts to persuade him to reverse his decision to quit the tour, because he feels he has been made a scapegoat too many times, apparently came to nothing.

Meanwhile, the Indians were sending for a reinforcement – not for the batting but the bowling. Disappointed with the form of their young

seamer, Paras Mhamaney, they have called up Salil Ankola, 28, who played one Test against Pakistan in 1989. Essex helped to give the Indians a lift by resting Sloss and Williams as well as Gooch and they lost Andrew after seven overs with a shoulder strain. His first six balls had been enough to dispose of Jadeja, presumably Sidhu's replacement, but Rathore continued to find easy pickings against county bowlers.

He lost Manjrekar, bowled round his legs sweeping at Childs's first ball. Rathore, however, carried on to hit four sixes and six fours in his 35 before he holed out at long-off and Tendulkar had struck five and five fours in 74 when he skied to mid-on. It was left to Ganguly to provide a sense of decorum until Irani, 34, came on. Essex player with plenty of incentive, hastened the declaration with three wickets for one run in seven balls.

SCOREBOARD

Lancashire	45-0: Elworthy 10-4-14-4; Williamson 9-5-0; Lewis 7-1-21-0

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McCarthy hands errant Keane six-match ban

By Peter Ball

TESTS are coming thick and fast for Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, and his team. Yesterday, McCarthy banned Roy Keane, his errant misfied player, for six matches and stripped him of the captaincy after Keane failed to report to the squad at the weekend. This evening Ireland face Portugal at Lansdowne Road, still searching for their first win under McCarthy's charge.

The decision to ban Keane, who spent yesterday at Old Trafford watching Lancashire's Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final between the showers, after returning late from holiday, smacked of firm government, but the player's failure to contact McCarthy left the manager with little alternative. Keane subsequently contacted McCarthy yesterday luncheon, and is expected to fly to Dublin today for a meeting with the manager. McCarthy left the door ajar for a rapprochement.

"It is a decision I wish I didn't have to make," McCarthy said yesterday before going off to a charity function. "I spoke to him, and I won't say anything more until I speak to him tomorrow."

There were suggestions that, if Keane apologised or offered a convincing explanation, he may be reinstated for the games against Croatia

on Sunday and Holland on Tuesday, although taking him to the United States is apparently not on the cards. Even so, the players will undoubtedly watch McCarthy's decision with interest, for it is a formidable test of his authority, and his judgement so early in his career.

It is, however, not unknown for Ireland internationals to go missing and be welcomed back into the fold; Jack Charlton forgave Paul McGrath's transgressions more than once, but McGrath's behaviour on the field gave his manager no problems.

Keane was sent off in McCarthy's first match in charge, against Russia two months ago, and his other disciplinary problems have been well documented. In the circumstances, McCarthy's faith in making him captain for the three-match tour of the United States has been badly repaid.

"It is a decision I wish I didn't have to make," McCarthy said yesterday before going off to a charity function. "I spoke to him, and I won't say anything more until I speak to him tomorrow."

Most significant, however, is the inclusion of Watford's David Connolly, who impressed when he came on as substitute and scored in McCarthy's testimonial against Celtic last Sunday and may prove the solution to Ireland's critical lack of a striker.



Keane's ban means he will not be selected to play for Ireland again until August

Germany's build-up continues in Belfast

From Kevin McCarran
IN MIAMI

GERMANY'S preparations for Euro 96 continue in Belfast tonight when they play Northern Ireland at Windsor Park (Russell Kempson writes). On closer examination of their records, Bert Vogts, the Germany manager, might have chosen alternative opponents.

Though underdogs this evening, Northern Ireland are unbeaten against Germany in three matches. They drew 1-1 in Bremen in 1992 and won both European championship qualifying matches 1-0 during the 1982-83 season.

Denmark and Romania announced their Euro 96 squads yesterday, with Denmark including Marc Rie-

per of West Ham United, and Claus Thomsen, of Ipswich Town.

DENMARK P Schmeichel (Manchester United), L Hansen (Olympique Lyonnais), M Ribeiro (West Ham United), J Riisager (Brondby), J Laugesen (Lyngby), T Helweg (Brondby), O Sorensen (Brondby), A Hansen (Brondby), M Sorensen (Odense), N Andersen, K Vilmer (Brondby), C Thomassen (Brondby), B Steen Nielsen (Odense), F Madsen (Helsingør), B Tofteberg (Aarskog), B Laudrup (Fenerbahce), M Beck (Fortuna Cologne), E B Andersen (Aalborg), P Poulsen (Brøndby), S Andersen (Aalborg)

ROMANIA G Balica (Bucharest), F Popescu (Bucharest), D Petrescu (Craiova), M Belodadi (Maracai), D Prodan (Steaua Bucharest), M Gheorghe (Gura Steaua Bucharest), C Radulescu (Craiova), A Dolice (Steaua Bucharest), I Fiforescu (Steaua Bucharest), O Suceava (Brasov), C Popescu (FCSB Bucharest), M Stoica (Steaua Bucharest), V Moldovan (Neuchatel Xamax), I Vasilescu (Steaua Bucharest)

Goram given chance to impress

By Raymond Keene

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

IT is, however, easy to forgive the talented. The Scotland goalkeeping coach, Alan Hodgkinson, claims that Goram is one of the best in Europe. Even Jim Leighton, who has occupied the position in the last dozen games, once said: "Andy does more things right than any goalkeeper I have seen."

Goram, five years the younger, grew up in the era of specialised training for goalkeepers and his technique is flawless. Discipline has, though, been less conspicuous in an occasionally boisterous private life. There is also concern over the ease with which he puts on weight and the effect it has on knees that have required surgery.

Leighton, on the other hand, has, at 37, a honed

body and a reputation for diligence. His performances since succeeding Goram may have been the greatest factor in ensuring Scotland's progress in the qualifiers. However, after defeats in the last two matches, Craig Brown, whose continuation as Scotland manager for the World Cup qualifiers will be confirmed next week, is more conscious than ever of the need to pick his best defence and has said that he already knows which goalkeeper will play in England next month. If Goram, who had a thigh injury last week, can demonstrate at the Orange Bowl tonight that he is fit in form and eager to play, the job could be his.

Scotland's opponents will use the game as preparation for their World Cup qualifier

against Peru on Sunday. Fausto Asprilla, Freddy Rincón and Carlos Valderrama are all expected to start the match, before Miami's substantial Colombian community.

Goram may receive greater protection than Leighton enjoyed in the 2-1 defeat by the United States on Sunday. The defence has been rejigged, with Whyte dropped and Boyd at centre back. Gary McAllister and John Collins return.

SCOTLAND 0-2-1: A Goran (Rangers) — C Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur), C Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), D Dundas (Sheffield Wednesday), S McLean (Rangers), G McMaster (Leeds United), J Coffey (Celtic), T McHale (Celtic) — G Dunn (Rangers), B Scott (Aberdeen), C McAllister (Liverpool), D Murray (Independent) — A Estrada (Col. J. Bermudez (America)), A Mandoca (Argentina), A Correa (Colombia), L Alvarez (Colombia), M Rodriguez (Colombia), G Valderrama (Tempo Bay Mulcahy), F Rincon (Real Madrid) — I Valencia (Junior), F Asprilla (Newcastle United).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
This is a hand from the semi-final of the 1995 Gold Cup, featuring elementary uses of entries. How should South set about Four Hearts on the lead of the king of clubs?

Dealer East East-West game IMPs

♦106
♦Q98
♦A5
♦K1076
♦972
♦AKJ1043
♦KJ109
♦—

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: king of clubs

The declarer for the winning team took club ruff at trick two, and played ace and jack of hearts, overtaking with the queen. Now he took a diamond finesse, but as he only had one more entry to the dummy, despite the favourable position of the queen, he had to lose another diamond trick.

Ratcliffe for the Welsh team took a diamond finesse at trick two, and subsequently entered dummy twice in trumps to take two more finesse. Not difficult really.

The first declarer could have improved on his play after ruffing the club by playing the jack of hearts to the queen and taking the diamond finesse. Later he can play a low heart to the nine and take another diamond finesse. With trumps 2-2 (or if East had had three

trumps), he could then have ruffed his fourth diamond.

At the EBU's Spring Bank Holiday Congress the Championship Pairs winners were Peter Goodman (Wales) and Mike Pownall (Dorset). The Swiss team was won by Nigel Freakie, Matthew Bingham, Paul Fogarty and Anne Catchpole, all from London.

For details of The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SIDDHA
a. The Himalayan cedar
b. Apprenticeship to a guru
c. A saint

WEBSTERITE
a. A student of spiders
b. An intrusive rock
c. An ultra Puritan

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

KASPAROV CRUSHED

World champion Garry Kasparov suffered a severe setback in round six of the Seville tournament, when he was annihilated as White in 35 moves. His vanquisher was the young Russian grandmaster Vladimir Kramnik, who triumphed with spectacular sacrifices that hounded Kasparov's king from one extreme of the board to the other. This defeat is possibly the most stunning that Kasparov has suffered with the normally advantageous White pieces.

White: Garry Kasparov

Black: Vladimir Kramnik

Seville, May 1996

Semi-Slav Defence

Kasparov may have confused his opening system. On move 17, when he had to play 17 Be5, a simple game Yekhovich v Sorokin, Calcutta 1991 had seen 17 dxe6, when both sides have chances. By the time that Kramnik played 20...Qb5 in this game storm clouds were already gathering over the white king. The subsequent cascade of sacrifices was inevitable after Black's concentration of force against the white king. Instead of 27 Bg5, Kasparov could have tried 27 Qd3, hoping for 27...Bb5; 28 Qxb5 axb5, 29 Ra8c8 turning the tables. However, after 27 Qd3, Black can deliver mate in two by 27...Qh1+, 28 Ke2 (Qe1 mate).

RESULTS: Kasparov 10, Kramnik 6,

Bartel 5, Yekhovich 4, Ivanchuk 3,

Bologan 3, Polgar 2, Gelfand 2,

Topalov 2, Topalov 2, Gelfand 2,

Kramnik 2, Ivanchuk 2, Ivanchuk 2,

Bartel 2, Ivanchuk 2, Ivanchuk 2,

Bologan 2, Polgar 2, Gelfand 2,

Topalov 2, Topalov 2, Gelfand 2,

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Kramnik 2, Ivanchuk 2

American's brave comeback attempt cut short at scene of former glory

French fervour fails to fire Capriati

FROM DAVID MILLER IN PARIS

YOU could not tell whether Jennifer Capriati was near to tears when she lost to Jing-Qing Yi, an unknown Chinese, but I know that I was. Capriati's tale is one of the most poignant in sport.

Yesterday, returning to the French championships where, in 1990, at the age of 14½ she had become the youngest Grand Slam semi-finalist, she valiantly tried to piece together her latest comeback. Yi, who had never seen a game of tennis when instructed to take up the game by her school in Nanjing at the age of eight, defeated her 6-3, 7-5.

That was little different from when Capriati's proprietorial father, Stefano, launched his infant daughter with a racket, aged only three. So relentlessly successful was that production line, that the girl had contracts worth \$6 million before she hit her first professional ball at the age of 14.

By 17, she was deep in emotional chaos. Three years on from that, rescued, one must hope, from drug experimenting and a social disorientation, she is clinging to the

Capriati: faults proliferated

wreckage of what was potentially the most illustrious women's career ever, a threat to the records of Wills, Connolly, Court, King and Navratilova.

The French crowd, whose hearts had bled on Monday evening at the departure of Henri Leconte now offered the arm of condolence to the struggling Capriati. "Jeh-nuh-fer," chanted eager schoolgirls, in the welcome sunshine. It was all to no avail.

The girl once hit forehands of which you dream

could not rediscover that talent. The first serve did not function, double faults proliferated, and though occasionally the forehand set expectation alight, too often it was long or wide. When she broke Yi's service to level the second set at 5-5, the buzz spread around Roland Garros. Yet two double faults immediately scuppered her, and she gave away the first of two match points when squandering an open forehand at the net.

Afterwards, the sadness of her dilemma was all too evident. Some may dismiss her as intellectually limited, yet here was a veteran child, aged only 20, emotionally treading water, unsure who she is, or where she is going. How desperately she needs honest friends, perhaps near to her own age, ready to give rather than take.

As she looked around her, searching within for honest answers to mostly friendly questions, she seemed lost. She was a little rusty, she said, modestly, "It's going to take practice and determination to be where I would like to be. It's not easy."

She was nervous, she admitted, returning to the scene of her first Grand Slam event. "I do feel a lot of emotions, and I let them get to me. I didn't know what to expect." Yes, she would love this summer to go back to the Olympic Games, in which she beat Steffi Graf for the gold medal four years ago, aged 16. The United States Tennis Association can only nominate her if they do so ahead of other, superior, contenders.

At 14, she was the youngest to be ranked in the top ten, and to be seeded at Wimbledon, (12th). A year later, in 1991, she became the youngest semi-finalist at Wimbledon, beating Navratilova on the way, and likewise at the US Open. By 1992, she had become the youngest, at 16, to earn a million dollars in prize-money. Today, she is ranked 106. One must hope she can find a contented future.

Yi, who is 22, pays half her prize-money to the government, 15 per cent to the National Federation, and keeps the rest for herself. That should still be a tidy sum if she can find a contented future.

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HOW ILLINGWORTH
TURNED A DRAMA
INTO A CRISIS

SPORT

WEDNESDAY MAY 29 1996

TENNIS 46

CAPRIATI BIDS
SAD FAREWELL
TO FRENCH OPEN

Ehiogu, Wise, Lee and Wilcox experience cruellest cut as England 22 are named

Venables backs the tried and trusted

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE hours of truth beckon Terry Venables's England. After 30 months without a competitive game, after last moments of personal agony, the coach yesterday shed the final four names from his squad for the European championship finals which begin Saturday week.

His next act will be to select a team for a serious match and, within a month, it will all be over for Venables and his mission to try to turn the English national game away from its years of failure.

"Those I had to leave out are unfortunate," he said of Ugo Ehiogu, Robert Lee, Dennis Wise and Jason Wilcox, the quartet who joined the already disappointed Peter Beardsley and Gary Pallister in failing to make the cut. "But the 22 we have give England a squad of quality, versatility and flair. Above all, it is a squad which believes in itself."

How those qualities fare against the best in Europe, indeed against some of the best in the world, will soon become apparent. But, by and large, Venables has picked the best players available. He has chosen a blend of youth and experience in almost equal measures, and apart from the now almost forgotten regret over his lack of willingness to give a chance to Matthew Le Tissier, there is scarcely a performer in the domestic game who can complain that he has been overlooked.

Moreover, before the winner-take-all phase of the Venables era begins, let it be stated that his 2½ years' work, all of it in an ostensibly practice environment, was a unique and a strange experience for England. He tried to use it to change our football culture, to bury the arrogant and failed propaganda from the director of coaching of the FA, Charles Hughes, who seemed to preach that football was about numbers, that correctness was all.

One would not say that Venables has been able to shift England onto the level of Brazil, but the attempt at copying Dutch football has put them much closer to the rest of the world than Hughes.

ENGLAND SQUAD FOR EURO 96				
Name	Club	Age	Caps	Goals
Golekeepers				
D Seaman	Arsenal	28	24	0
T Flowers	Blackburn	24	2	0
I Walker	Tottenham	24	2	0
Defenders				
G Neville	Man Utd	21	10	4
A Adams	Arsenal	29	40	4
S Howey	Newcastle	24	4	0
G Southgate	Aston Villa	25	4	0
S Campbell	Tottenham	24	65	5
G Smith	Nottingham Forest	24	19	1
P Neville	Man Utd	19	1	0
Middlefield players				
D Anderton	Tottenham	24	11	5
S Storey	Nottingham Forest	24	18	7
P Gascoigne	Rangers	22	38	2
P Ince	Internationals	28	19	2
D Platt	Arsenal	29	58	27
J Redknapp	Liverpool	22	4	0
S McManaman	Liverpool	24	10	0
Forwards				
L Ferdinand	Newcastle	28	10	4
R Fowler	Liverpool	21	3	0
N Bamby	Middlesbrough	22	6	2
T Sheringham	Tottenham	25	23	5
A Shearer	Blackburn	25	23	5

into the groin of a Hungarian defender at Wembley this month, there and then ended his right to be trusted when the tournament tensions begin. But Lee, and perhaps Wilcox, were unfortunate. Wilcox, despite his late inclusion, had offered England a truly left-sided attacking player, a position Venables persists in asking of the right-footed, though infinitely more gifted, Steve McManaman.

And Lee? A few months ago, he was lauded by Kevin

Keegan as the best player in the country. He had every reason to believe that an FA Carling Premiership winners' medal was his for the taking. Newcastle United lost the championship and now Lee lost the Jamie's just hit form again. We decided in China that he has just come back to it as Robert hit a dip in his form. With Platt certain to score vital goals, it came down to one or the other."

Additionally, from words Venables had spoken months ago, the coach has faith in the

trust and the tolerance Venables has invested in Shearer must soon reap dividends. Shearer, 12 games and 20 months without a goal, is there because of his willingness, his mobility, his experience in leading the line. "You tell me why I have not been getting the chances," he said a week ago. "It might be a worry if I was missing chances, but they have not been coming."

Venables must quickly decide — is it the system or the man? One way or the other, now that the contest has come really to mean something, England cannot go barren into the European nights. Fowler, 85 goals in 143 Liverpool matches, and Ferdinand, 119 goals in 225 games for Queen Park Rangers and Newcastle, cannot be left idle by while impotence reigns.

Yet, Venables has his favourites. "Trust those who have done it," was a favourite saying of Helmut Schön. Hopefully, Venables might follow him, for Schön was the most successful manager in the international game. Schön himself "stole" the saying from Virgil, who originally wrote 2,000 years ago: "Experio credite" (Trust one who has proved it).

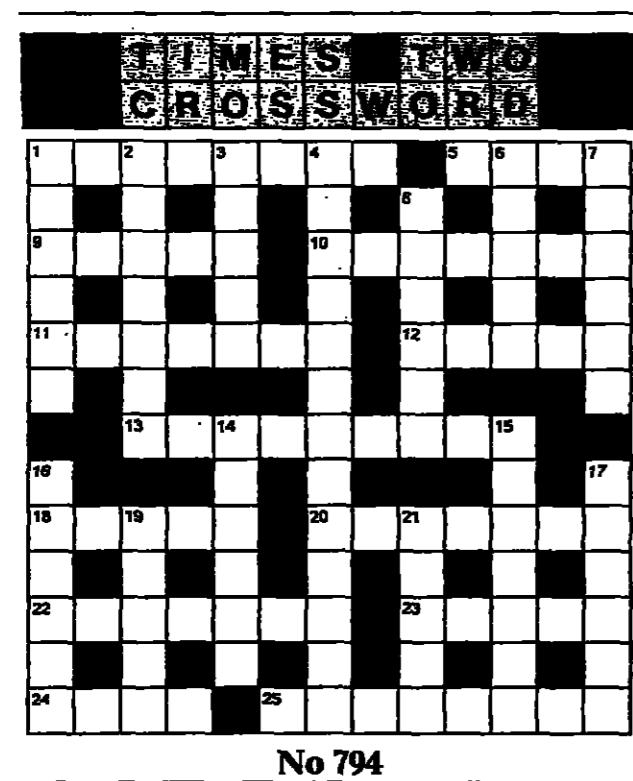
Goran's chance, page 45
Keane banned, page 45



Venables arrives back at Heathrow yesterday before the announcement of the final England squad of 22.



Gary Neville, Darren Anderton and Steve McManaman, who will provide the youth in England's probable starting line-up.



No 794

ACROSS:
1 Professional business (8)
5 Pressed bell (4)
9 Film award (3)
10 Stomping (typestyle) (7)
11 Field for horses (7)
12 Boat of dissipation (5)
13 Peevish (9)
18 Treatment; 1 ac. (5)
20 Of a wandering lifestyle (7)
22 Cloyingly flattering (praise) (7)
23 Inland waterway (5)
24 Large container; mill, vehicle (4)
25 Without knowledge (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 793
ACROSS: 1 Risk 3 Clerical 5 Chagrin 10 Pilot 11 Cakes and Ale 13 Endear 15 Pestle 17 Mischievous 20 Anger 21 Antigua 22 Unsaddle 23 Once

DOWN: 1 Ricotta 2 Snack 4 Lining 5 Replacement 6 Culvert 7 Lath 9 Rest assured 12 Persuade 14 Damages 16 Thrall 18 Organ 19 Babu

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 799
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Head 3 Cobalt 5 Topiary 9 Major 10 Corio 11 Ombudsman 13 Cafeteria 17 Relapse 19 Cuppa 20 Vicar 22 Optimum 23 Lebanon 24 Head

DOWN: 1 Hi-tech 2 Empirical 3 Cry for the moon 4 He-man 5 Bay 6 Thrust 7 Pay-off 12 Blaspheme 14 Recipe 15 Grovel 16 Flaw 18 Peron 21 Cab

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic or international network is C Loveys, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is G Madre-Jones, Cilcain, Mold Flint. All flights subject to availability.

Resolute Warwickshire rocked by record yet still refuse to roll

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CARDIFF (Glamorgan won toss): Warwickshire beat Glamorgan by 12 runs

BY THEIR own, peerless standards, May has been an uneasy month for Warwickshire but those who seek to doubt or denigrate them do so at their peril. They had the rough end of a spiteful pitch and doleful weather yesterday, yet, with the character and resolution that identifies their success, Warwickshire disillusioned an expectant Sophia Gardens crowd for the second successive year to reach the last four of the Benson and Hedges Cup.

It was a breathless win, not at all reminiscent of the embarrassingly swift NatWest Trophy semi-final here last August. This time, Warwickshire were taken to the brink by Matthew Maynard and Ollie Gibson, whose thrilling stand of 136 in 22 overs was a sixth-wicket record for any county limited-overs event.

Until they were paired, 24 short of the target with five overs remaining, Glamorgan were tantalisingly close to only their second semi-final in this competition. Warwickshire, however, will routinely break down a door once it is ajar and they took the last five wickets for 11 runs in only 23 balls.

There was a price to pay for victory. The bounce, from a surface that had spent too long under covers, was dangerously untrustworthy and Warwickshire's top order bore the brunt of it. Nick Knight was one of three batsmen requiring treatment for hand injuries and an X-ray revealed a small crack at the top of his left

index finger after he was hit by Gibson.

It is not a serious injury and Warwickshire hope that Knight, who did not field, will recover to play in the championship fixture at Northampton tomorrow. Knight is, however, expected to resume his Test career at Edgbaston next Thursday and so David Lloyd, the England coach, was informed of the situation.

Glamorgan had lost the toss nine times out of eleven this season but this was a good day for their luck to change. The

decision to bowl was elementary and even with Gibson half-fit, it was a fraught time to be batting as the ball either reared off a good length or scuttled through at ankle-height. Despite the relatively high scores, this was an unsatisfactory pitch for a one-day game and the umpires will mark it down accordingly.

Warwickshire took an early view that the bat should be swung lustily at anything of full length, a policy that worked in two ways. They connected regularly enough to

score at a healthy rate and Glamorgan's bowlers, seeking to adjust, tended to drop too short. Watkin, exemplary as ever, dismissed Smith and Knight within five overs but the promoted Brown hit out disruptively. It was a day when five or six wickets might have fallen in the first hour, but only two did so.

Butcher, who is becoming an influential cricketer, dismissed Brown and Penney with the help of loose drives but Reeve's innovations combined with the orthodoxy of Ollie in a fifth-wicket stand off. Even when Pollock was needlessly run out, Warwickshire were not subdued and Ollie's stoical 85 from 109 balls shepherded them to a total which, in the conditions, appeared adequate.

It looked rather better than when Glamorgan found the new ball as hazardous as Warwickshire had done.

James was dropped at slip from Pollock's second ball of an opening over that continued with him beating Morris three times. Morris, after a brief study of the offending pitch, decided that this was a time to be playing shots rather than seeking survival.

Morris was third out, having

made a thrusting 38, the first of three swift wickets for Reeve. At 80 for five, Glamorgan were sinking fast but Maynard, having made little impact for England this week, and assisted by Gibson's whirling bat, carried his side closer than had seemed possible, close enough for Warwickshire to feel they had earned a reprieve.

Score at 15 overs: 66-2
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-20, 3-47, 4-76,
5-81, 6-118, 7-225, 8-228.
BOWLING: Watkin 10-35-2; Gibson 9-0-
59-0; Thomas 6-28-0; Butcher 8-21-2;
Coff 7-0-37-2; Bannick 10-0-49-2;
Umpires: A Jones and T E Jesby.

Total (48.5 overs) 227

Score at 15 overs: 66-2
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-21, 3-27,
4-38, 5-45, 6-51-2; Brown 6-3-1-
27-2; Reeve 10-1-21-2; Morris 9-0-21-2;
Welch 9-0-48-0; Glaz 3-23-0; Smith 1-0-
13-0; Gold Award: D Ollie.

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